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What the Big Seven achieved in Bonn

DIE ZEIT

The Bonn economic summit was the fourth bid by the West's major industrialised countries to join forces against the economic crisis that has paralysed an inflation-racked world since oil prices skyrocketed in autumn 1973.

Previous summits were held in Paris in 1975, Puerto Rico in 1976 and London last year. But even though the Bonn meeting went strictly according to plan, the seven-nation alliance has yet to prove its worth.

Too many people are still unemployed, economic growth is still too slow, and as a result each country is trying to palm off its difficulties on the country next door by imposing import restrictions.

So the United States, Canada, Britain, France, Italy, Japan and the Federal Republic of Germany drew up a new and detailed master plan at Bonn.

Chancellor Schmidt claimed a distinction between this and previous summits, all of which had enabled Western leaders to have a direct and intensive exchange of views.

This time, he said, the meeting had received substantial contributions from all participating governments to which they pledged themselves as a solution to the world's economic problems.

This sounds as though the commitments are binding, which they naturally are not. They are mere declarations of intent, made at an international gathering and thereby boosting the position of the heads of government with their respective parliaments, and that is all.

But these declarations by countries combine to make up a coherent whole.

The four EEC countries at Bonn referred to the energy-saving resolution approved by Common Market leaders at their Bremen summit.

By 1985 the Nine plan to halve their dependence on energy imports and to reduce to 0.8 per cent the increase in energy consumption in relation to the increase in GNP.

This induced President Carter to put his own energy-saving cards on the table. He promised by the end of the year to draft a programme to reduce US dependence on imported oil.

By 1985 the United States aims to cut oil imports by two-and-a-half milllon barrels a day, and by 1980 US domestic oil prices, currently an amalgam of prices charged for domestic and imported petroleum, are to be brought into line with world prices.

Mr Carter agreed to the inclusion of his declaration of intent in the final communiqué and Herr Schmidt, by previously arranged plan, confirmed Bonn's contribution.

By the end of August Bonn is to submit to the Bundestag a package of measures to stimulate demand and costing up to one per cent of GNP, or DM13,000 m.

At this point France's President Giscard d'Estaing decided to come down from the fence and announce pump-priming plans of his own. He somewhat prematurely sees his country in the ranks of the stability-conscious and proposed to step up France's 1978 budget deficit by about 5,000m francs.

Italy's Giulio Andreotti, Japan's Takeo Fukuda, Britain's James Callaghan and Canada's Pierre Trudeau also plan to boost economic growth – without inflation of course.

President Carter alone will concentrate on the unpopular task of combating inflation. Pre-election tax cuts in 1979 and 1980 will be less than than originally intended.

The seven decried protectionism in world trade just as they had done at London in May 1977, but this time they went a step further.

They authorised their delegates to come to terms with others on outstanding issues at the Tokyo round Gatt talks on tariffs and non-tariff barriers to trade.

Gatt delegations are to reach agreement by 15 December. Why indeed should Western leaders be reluctant to order their delegates to get a move on when they themselves have the courage to order economic growth?

The United States is to step up exports, Japan is to increase imports – and also to yet again call on Japanese exporters to exercise restraint.

Each individual commitment seems to match the others in the context of economic growth, so superficially the Bonn summit would seem a success.

But what might the governments have been prepared to do if the Bonn summit had not been staged? This is the crucial question which alone can indicate what the summit accomplished.

On energy-saving President Carter did not commit himself to more than had been known in the United States for weeks.

President Walter Scheel jokes with cameraman as the heads of government at the Bonn summit line up for a formal photograph after a lunch given by the President. Front: Chancellor Schmidt, President Carter, President Scheel, Prime Ministers Andreotti of Italy and Fukuda of Japan. Back: Prime Minister Trudeau of Canada, President Giscard d'Estaing of France and Prime Minister James Callaghan of Britain.
(Photo: J. H. Darchinger)

Bonn's counter-concession similarly came as no suprise to anyone who had read a newspaper in recent weeks.

The German contribution to the summit was a domestic talking-point and would have been undertaken regardless of whether the other six had met their side of the bargain.

The Germans and the French will be the first to take specific measures. Mr Carter's energy-saving counter-concession will not be completed until 1980 or even 1985.

To ensure that Bonn is not the only government to act, Chancellor Schmidt arranged for the seven leaders' personal representatives to meet by the end of the year to review progress on the declarations of intent.

In Bonn the Cabinet will soon enter the fray. The economic booster package must be submitted to the Bundestag by the end of August.

The Cabinet proposals will specify how the DM13,000 is to be invested, since details were not discussed at the summit. But there has been talk of a combination of measures that will bring something for everyone.

Tax cuts will ease the income-tax burden on lower income groups at one particularly harsh point in the sliding scale.

Single wage-earners pay a standard rate of 22 per cent on income up to DM16,000. But they pay 30.8 pfennigs in every deutschemark thereafter.

This jump is to be made less dramatic by tax cuts.

Tax cuts will also benefit medium-and higher-income brackets, although Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher's idea of tax cuts has not met with approval from Bonn coalition taxation specialists.

There will also be a slight increase in family allowances and measures to promote manufacturing techniques that save energy and raw materials.

View still differ on the package, however. Finance Minister Hans Matthöfer would prefer to invest as much as possible of the DM12,000 to DM13,000 in additional government spending and the promotion of private innovation.

Economic Affairs Minister Otto Lambsdorff would prefer to invest it all in tax cuts. These views clashed when the Cabinet met to finalise proposals from 26 to 28 July.

Herr Matthöfer would like tax cuts introduced next year to form part of a wider-ranging reform planned for 1980.

But he sees scant hope of increasing value-added tax from 12 to 13 per cent in the New Year, which would have recouped half the additional expenditure.

So he reckons the government will have no alternative but to raise the cash on money markets, even though this might be considered a breach of Bonn's constitutional obligation to balance the budget.

As a rule loans may only be raised to finance investment, not consumption. Consumption may only be stimulated

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■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Hijack agreement is long step towards Western solidarity

Compared with the intractability of inflation rates, unemployment figures and payments balances, airlines give governments few problems.

They depend on government assistance in negotiating landing, touchdown and overflight rights. They are also usually owned either wholly or in part by their governments.

So airlines are particularly well suited to unofficial political roles where governments are reluctant to risk official failure.

At the prompting of Canadian Premier Pierre Trudeau, the seven countries



at the Bonn summit approved the outlines of a plan to combat hijacking.

The Western economic summit threatened countries that refuse to either extradite hijackers or take legal action against them with a civil aviation embargo.

Flights from the United States, Canada, Britain, France, Italy, Japan and the Federal Republic of Germany to offending countries would be suspended. Aircraft from these countries would be refused landing permission in the leading industrial countries of the West.

Air traffic links via third countries would also be liable to sanctions.

Western leaders took 90 minutes longer than intended to finalise this part of their declaration. The idea sounded simple enough but proved to have difficulties.

The delay occurred even though the Bonn resolution was no more than a declaration of intent, leaving Foreign Ministers to agree on the details. They were also given the job of canvassing worldwide support for the proposal.

Pressure will be brought to bear to transform the Bonn resolution into an internataional convention.

Prospects are good, since the seven backers of the embargo between them handle the largest share of international aviation.

New York, London, Paris and Frankfurt are turntables of international air transport. Tokyo is another hub. Airlines banned from landing here are virtually excluded from international aviation.

So this outcome of the summit, incidental though it may seem, is surprisingly definite, probably the most definite outcome of the entire meeting.

In the past, moves like this have invariably been thwarted by economic interests, political considerations, oil and exports.

Now the summit seven can no longer fall back on excuses for failing to act. They will be able to do so soon, since it is unlikely to be long before the next aircraft is hijacked.

Whether it is the last plane to be hijacked depends to no small extent on the determination of the seven to act as well as talk.

President Carter, seldom at a loss for a resounding phrase, said in Bonn that the resolution on air piracy alone had made the summit worthwhile.

Not all the others will have agreed. They came to Bonn with more than an agreement on hijacking in mind.

Besides, they took a less pessimistic view of the summit than to regard a declaration with no legal force as its chief outcome.

Yet President Carter, initially derided by senior politicians in Bonn and elsewhere as a utopian, has increasingly gained a reputation for realism among his partners in world affairs.

His comment on the Bonn air piracy resolution is by no means unrealistic. As an outcome of the fourth Western economic summit it may not have been much, but is is certainly better than nothing.

Ludger Stein-Ruegenberg

(Deutsche Zeitung, 21 July 1978)

Bonn summit

Continued from page 1

on borrowed money when the economy is in serious imbalance.

The final communiqué in Bonn expressly noted that world trade is in a serious imbalance, and there is no need for interest rates to increase provided the Bundesbank does not continue to increase statulory reserves.

Helmut Schmidt would greatly have appreciated unqualified support of the European monetary system by President Carter, but this backing was not to be so.

Mr Carter, no doubt with British misgivings in mind, chose not to prematurely praise the Bremen European Monetary Fund and Euro-currency proposals.

Herr Schmidt achieved no more than the inclusion in the final communiqué at Bonn of a mention that "the summit meeting welcomes this report" — a reference to the Bremen EEC summit.

What benefit has Bonn really derived from the summit? America and Canada have promised to maintain reliable supplies of nuclear fuel. It may not sound much, but appearances are deceptive.

The four Western economic summits have combined to produce an important side-effect. Schmidt and Callaghan, Giscard and Carter, Carter and Schmidt now know each other much better than did the Kaiser and the Tsar.

When the need arises, Western leaders will be better able to estimate each other's reactions, basic views and political concepts than if their only contact was through diplomatic channels.

Lastly, summit conferences have an educational value. Were it not for these gatherings it would surely be impossible to agree in two days on an economic package based on a uniform outlook.

Summit conferences are a convenient opportunity of impressing on heads of government the need for constructive economic policy convictions as a priority for stability.

In this role they resemble refresher courses, but they still depend on someone being there to provide the refreshment and hammer home the message.

Rudolf Herlt

(Die Zeit, 21 July 1978)

Mr Trudeau pauses for a spot of selling

Statesmen these days are usually travelling salesmen too, and Canadian premier Pierre Trudeau is no exception.

He stayed on in Germany after the Bonn summit, but not merely for the pleasure of a cruise round the Baltic with Chancellor Schmidt.

Mr Trudeau conferred in Cologne with German industrialists, and this gathering was anything but a peripheral item on his schedule.

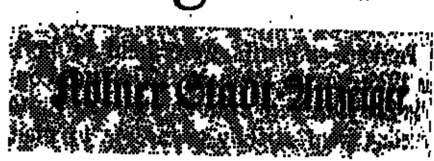
Canada, as official declarations have made clear, is keen to enlarge its trade with the Federal Republic of Germany.

The Canadian premier said trade between the two countries was underdeveloped, and this seems a fair comment. A mere two per cent of respective import-export trade is very little.

But there are reasons why trade ties with Canada have yet to reach a level appropriate to an enormous country rich in natural resources.

The Canadian market is fairly small, with only 20 million people, and shipping costs are enormous.

What is more, productivity is fairly low — relatively speaking. Potential in-



vestors prefer to invest directly in the neighbouring United States.

Canada, of course, is keen to diversify and escape from the economic tutelage of Uncle Sam. Trade with countries such as Germany is to be promoted as a "third option".

In the past Canada has mainly supplied Bonn with raw materials. In future Ottawa would like to develop its own manufacturing industries.

A number of hurdles remain, for instance, the inspection procedures for foreign investment introduced in 1974.

These were aimed mainly at the overwhelming supremacy of US investment, but they tend to deter other investors, as has the nationalisation of potash in Saskatchewan.

What is more, despite high unemployment, Canada has a shortage of skilled workers.

But these obstacles do not appear insuperable given the opportunities the Canadian market offers in the long term. German industrialists seem keen not to miss the boat.

This autumn a delegation headed by Nikolaus Fasolt, president of the industries confederation, is to tour Canada.

Josef Rothe

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 21 July 1978)

Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, Prime Minister Anker Jörgensen of Denmark and Canada's Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau face the press at Faarborg on the Danish island of Fyn after their talks. Chancellor Schmidt and the Canadian leader visited the island on a Baltic cruise. On subject discussed was the anti-hijacking plan proposed at the Bonn summit. (Photo: dpa)

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■ ISSUES

Is Bonn ready to take on its international responsibilities?

Heads of government who have ambitions in world politics now hold summit meetings: Giscard d'Estaing of France was the first, followed by Gerald Ford of the USA and James Callaghan of Britain.

All three had good reasons for holding their summits: they were new in office and yearned to be regarded as statesmen.

Whether Chancellor Schmidt, whose statesmanship is beyond dispute, likes it or not many observers see the latest Bonn summit in this way. Herr Schmidt gave a large number of interviews before the conference and stuck doggedly to Jimmy Carter's side in Bonn, Wiesbaden, Frankfurt and Berlin.

The provincial town of Bonn was transformed for a few days into a major arena of world politics, which inevitably gives ammunition to those who see the summit as an exercise in vanity on the Chancellor's part.

The meeting supported the theories of those who see this country as going through a process of emancipation, a process in which a "political dwarf" is at last putting on clothes which fit its muscular economic build.

In a word: the Federal Republic of Germany is cautiously but unmistakably taking over a political leadership role.

Assuming that this view of our new status is correct, there are two questions. Who is forcing us into it? (Are others involved or are we taking the initiative ourselves?) And is there are place in world politics for us in such a role?

We can begin by assuming that even in a world of economic crises and internal problems in many leading countries, no country is going to gladly give up a leading position. This applies even to countries to whose claim to leadership no longer corresponds to international realities.

Even though *The Times* recently urged this country to show more political muscle internationally, there is no reason to assume that this is the opinion of the British government.

The British, even now that they have lost their empire, have never had problems with the word "power." Former Foreign Minister George Brown once admitted that his main reason for getting Britain into the EEC was to ensure that she could play a leading role in Eruope.

As we know, Brown's ambition has not been realised. Under Callaghan and Owen the British have started playing their "special relationship with the United States" trump, they are up to their neck in difficulties in Rhodesia, and in European politics they are obsessed with the loss of sovereignty. In other words, where George Brown once wanted to establish a leading European power there is now only a vacuum.

Whether the Germans like it or not, this vacuum creates powerful suction. They have to recognise tht it is no longer possible to go on playing the easy but expensive role of paymaster of Europe.

This suction towards greater political responsibility has become even stronger since the American presidential elections. Strained relations between Bonn and Washington mean the German government has no alternative but to take a more independent line.

We should not allow ourselves to be deluded by the many recent assurances that relations between the two capitals have never been better. The problem of President Carter will remain after the summit euphoria has passed. Carter's style of leadership, his unpredictability, his relationship with Congress, his living from hand to mouth in foreign policy: all these are in style and substance policies of distance and disengagement. They make friends and enemies highly sceptical and cautious.

The trend observed in German politics recently towards stronger accents and a more prominent international profile has not been deliberately sought. It is a defensive reaction to political irrationality; it has been imposed.

This has not prevented other statesmen from expressing misgivings. They refer to Rapallo or talk about Finalndisation and confuse greater German political independence with the search for alternatives, new directions and dramatic new orientations.

Prime Minister Callaghan's response to the Franco-German proposal for a new monetary system within the EEC was equally significant. Of course it is quite legitimate to be concerned about such proposals, but if ever anyone should have been excited about them it was James Callaghan. Nothing better could possibly happen to the reeling pound than to be in a huge net which would soften its often spectacular falls.

Yet all Callaghan could do was to give a reluctant and reserved "yes, but" to the proposals.

Behind the Franco-German plan Callaghan suspects an attempt to bring about a switch of power in Europe, and the creation of a political second division to which he would be in grave danger of relegation.

This means there is room for this country to take a leading role in foreign policy, regardless of whether this is sought or imposed. The problem is to take it on and at the same time come to terms with the power neurosis which has determined and paralysed German foreign policy for the past 30 years.

There is no doubt that the new role would be more difficult and riskier. It would mean winning friends, not necessarily with money but by force of argument.

Inevitably this change of role will mean misunderstandings and misinterpretations in certain quarters. It should be made quite clear from the start that greater political independence does not mean a claim to leadership. Everything should be done to prevent the accusation of resurgence of German nationalism simply because this country now defends its foreign policy interests as obstinately as the French and British have always done.

This is basically no more than a reaction to worn-out and blurred world political leadership structures.

It is no more and no less than the ultimately inevitable assumption by a politically and economically strong state of its full international responsibilities.

Peter Eichberg

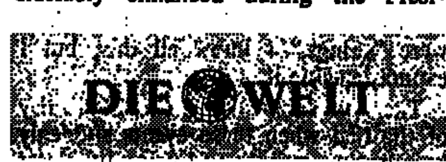
(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 23 July 1978)

Carter shows way to stand by detente's ideals

Against the advice of other heads of state at the recent Bonn summit, Jimmy Carter has replied to the neo-Stalinist brutalities of the Soviet government by imposing trade sanctions. In doing so, he has proved that he can not only believe, think and talk but can also act.

The Federal Republic of Germany, which thanks to its economic and military power occupies a leading place in the Atlantic Alliance, must now decide whether to follow the Americans' moral and political example or to reject Carter's human rights policies, as it has done up to now.

The likelihood the German adopting Carter's line on human rights was considerably enhanced during the Presi-



dent's visit to Bonn. The decisive stage along this route is not that Helmut and Jimmy are on first name terms, but that the Americans are no longer prepared to respond to the contradiction between detente and disregard of human rights by looking in the other direction.

Contrasting present and past, it is amazing that Germany plays one of the main parts in this tremendously important confrontation.

It is less than 30 years since Germans were scrambling around for American cigarette ends in the ruins of their cities. Today Germans travel around in six-cylinder cars while the families of American soldiers stationed in Germany and hit by the dollar slump have to go by tram. And this is not the only contradictory aspect of German-American relations and their many transformations and metamorphoses. There is no disputing that this country did not show solidarity when the US was going through its worst crises — particularly during the Vietnam war — but opportunistically kept its distance.

That America again and again pledged to defend the freedom of the Federal Republic and of Berlin in particular, despite the German anti-Americanism, was simply taken for granted or else misinterpreted as the expression of egocentric American interests.

All this is now in the past. But as political relationships always have psychological preconditions and consequences, German-American relations today cannot be fully understood without looking at the past.

German politicians greeted Jimmy Carter's presence in Berlin, his commitment to the city's freedom and importance and his assurance of community of interests with Bonn with understandable and appropriate delight. They also made their not insignificant contribution. But it soon turned out that this community of interest still had to be tested in the arena of human rights policies, where it is a matter of demonstrating moral staying power.

The caricature showing Carter as a vacillating President, not knowing what he really wants, seems to have missed the mark badly. The reason why Carter seemed unpredictable was the difficulties he faced and still faces with his European allies and Congress. He clearly knows what he wants and how to go about getting it, even if his detours sometimes confuse doubters.

The greatest confusion has been caused by those of President Carter's qualities which seem to have disappeared in the free world: missionary zeal, faith and idealism. After a decade of compromise between East and West, of tactical finesse and treading softly masquerading as diplomacy, and a disastrous mixture of wishful thinking and opportunism, Carter's impetus in the name of freedom and right strikes West European politicians hypnotised by Moscow as recklessness or madness. The attempts to make him tone down his human rights policies graphically illustrate this.

It has long been apparent that the technology of military security and the artistry of the *Ostpolitik* of appeasement can get nowhere against Moscow's imperialistic, expansionist and, in the final analysis, colonialist aggression.

Someone had to come along and say that thoughts were the best weapons, ideals which have to be lived up to so that they shine out in places where they have not (yet) been realised. The certainty of victory of the free cannot be created by military, technological and economic security; it can only be preserved by them and even here only imperfectly. The decline of the consciousness of freedom in the West helped the Kremlin towards easy triumphs even though its ideology is lame and senile and the best minds in Russia, Poland and Czechoslovakia frighten the rulers in these countries.

The detente train looked as if it was going to come to a halt at its East European destinations where its rich cargo would be finally unloaded. It was high time that someone changed the points and, with the power of faith, feeling, thought and action declared that the idealistic aims of the free West are bin-

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■ TRIAL

Maidanek: face of horror in a dull courtroom

The three-year-old Maidanek trial in the Düsseldorf Land Court is the last of the major trials of German war criminals. Of the original 16 accused, one has died and another has been ruled unfit to stand trial.

The remaining 14 were allegedly among the 1300 men and women who tortured and murdered at least 250,000 pörisoners and probably far over a million at Lublin-Maidanek concentration camp.

On the 269th day of the trial a Polish witness, Dr. Zachäus Pawlak, from Radom, gives evidence. It is a cool, rainly July day, like most days this summer. The small, frail witnesses sits with his interpreter under the faded blueprint of the plan of Lublin-Maidanek concentration camp: 125 barracks in five fields, seven gas chambers and a crematorium, all in the space of 270 hectares.

Even after three years, this plan, to the left of the judge's bench, is still not correct. The presiding judge says "It was not like that, as we know" when the former prisoner wants to point something out. On the mahagony wall to the right there is an obtrusive white mosaic cross.

The witness is alone in from of the benches where the accused and their counsel sit. He now has to identify his



Hermine Ryan-Braunsteiner, said to be The Mare of Maidanek. (Photos: dpa)

torturers after 35 years and this makes him confused and frightened. In a low voice he says a few names: Kobyla (The Mare), the woman who beat him, Reinartz, a German first-aid man, the third one he is not so sure about. The interpreter translates from Polish.

Presiding judge Günter Bogen points *to another of the accused:* "And the man with the blue tie?" The witness cannot recognise him: "It is hard, after 35 years."

I went to Düsseldorf not to look for a sensation but because I felt obliged to attend at least part of this trial, probably the last ever major trial of Nazi war criminals. This case deals not only with the past of the accused, the witnesses, the lawyers and judges. I am one of those born after the war and all I know of the Third Reich, the SS state and the concentration camps is what I have heard and read. I am one of those to whom Bert Brecht appealed: *Remember When you speak of our weaknesses The dark times/You did not have to live through. Bear this in mind when you think of us.*

Another reason was that I wanted to see the faces, and not just lifeless photographs, of these people who at such a tender age were capable of torturing others so cruelly and could live with the memory for years, decades. I knew from the start that they would not look any different from the people I saw in the buses, on the streets and in the shops every day. A schoolboy attending the trial shouted. "she looks just like my granny" when he saw one of the accused.

No, there is nothing special, nothing demonic, about these people. Nothing demonic about Hildegard Lächert, nicknamed "Bloody Brygida", who is said to have flayed prisoners at Maidanek and is accused of 1,196 cases of aiding and abetting murder. Before the trial, Frau Lächert was an unskilled worker.

There is nothing demonic about Hermine Ryan-Braunsteiner, known as "The mare" in the camp and feared for her kicks. She gives me a dirty look because I stared at her in amazement during the break. She is dressed entirely in pink. Emil Laurich, known in Maidanek as "The Angel of Death," is a fat man in his late 50s. There is nothing special about him, either. They sit between their lawyers, unmoved and infinitely indifferent and during the breaks they read the newspaper *Bild* time and again *Bild*. Now and again they take sips of water, like people attending a rather boring conference. This was something I *had not expected.*

There are not many members of the public at this 269th day of the trial. A few law students from Bremen who have come to the Düsseldorf Land Court for their term outing. Later, a class of secondary modern school pupils comes in for two hours. Then there is a journalist from Amsterdam, who wants to compare the Düsseldorf trial with the terrorist trial in Berlin.

The trial does not start on time — 9.25 instead of 9.00. The court ushers tell me that the trial never starts on time, time does not count in this trial, not even the time allotted to the proceedings each day. There are frequent breaks, and they often last longer than announced. There is something of a family atmosphere in the courtroom before the trial begins, nothing really serious, nothing that a witness's testimony later could cast a shadow over.

Hermine Ryan-Braunsteiner and Hildegard Lächert talk to one another, the defence counsel walk up and down, put their robes on their seats, put the robes on, people read newspapers, someone yawns, the rain outside beats on the frosted windows.

The witness, who comes in late, is quiet and alone, although he is accompanied by two Red Cross women who, together with members of the Society for Christian-Jewish Cooperation, look after the witnesses. Later the former Maidanek prisoner will be asked about the killing of children.

Unlike many of the witnesses before him, and probably many that come after him, this witness has no difficulty in recalling the appalling and incomprehensible events which took place in Maidanek 35 years ago. Zachäus Pawlak, who was brought to Maidanek from the Radom Gestapo prison on 8 January 1943 at the age of 20 and remained there until it was evacuated in April 1944, wrote a book on his experiences in this camp entitled *I Survived* published in 1965. He has already testified several times in Poland.

Pawlak speaks slowly. He tells of the various parts of the camp he lived in in his 16 months there, of the latrine commando he worked in during his first months there, of how they had to clean out the huge latrines with buckets on sticks. He tells of the injections in the breast muscles which the ten or 12 prisoners in the roof repair commando, all aged around 20, were given one morning and of how he later went down with typhus.

After he had recovered from the disease, he worked as a first-aid man. He *tells of the camp staff whom he got to* know and about how a friend in the camp whose brother he had looked after later presented him with a pair of monogrammed felt slippers.

The presiding judge, who is about the same age as the witness, asks questions and occasionally interrupts with the words "We'll come to that later," which sound like a reproof.

Then Pawlak has to try to identify his former torturers. Most of them are hardly older than he is, but in those days they wore caps. He has only seen them in uniform and they always carried whips. Laurich, the "Angel of Death," he never saw face to face but only at a distance of at least 30 metres, often on a bicycle. How can he recognise him, how can he recognise the other solid citizens sitting opposite him, furniture salesmen, housewives, clerks.

He names a few names in an almost inaudible voice. The accused stare into space. The mentions the woman who beat him. "That is a longer story," he says later: Medicines had to be brought from the chemist's on field II to the women's quarters on field V. "And as we had very little contact with women, we drew out the handing over of the medicines for as long as we could. Dr B., who had been in the same prison as me in Radom, was there. I asked her about her life here and the children. The Mare saw that we were taking our time. She came across shouting with hate written all over her face, cursed and hit me. I ran away quickly, I was ashamed that I had been hit by a woman." With a whip.

There is nothing extraordinary about this story, part of Pawlak's account of life in Maidanek. I know many similar stories which I read as a schoolgirl, though it was not my school lessons which encouraged me to do so. I know what is meant by the official terms "liquidation" and "selection", I know what "baths" were used for and that there were "swings." I know all this, but I cannot imagine it.

There are moments on this 269th day of the trial when these events suddenly become oppressively and painfully closer — for instance when the witness talks of preparations for a mass murder called "thanksgiving" on 3 November 1943, when 17,000 Jews were driven naked into mass graves and shot to marching music.

Before this, the sick had been removed from field V to field IV. The presiding judge asks what the time of day was. The former prisoner thinks for a moment: "The sick were moved early in the morning, the first shots were fired when it was already light, but the sun had not risen. It was a sunny day." I know these last sunny days in late autumn well.

Later the witness tells of how 300 children were transported to the crematorium in three trailers drawn by "bulldogs." The presiding judge smiles and says: "Yes, that's right. That's what we used to call them in those days."



Hildegard Lächert: accused of 1,196 cases of aiding and abetting murder.

The witness saw this transport of children. Perhaps he was the only one to see it during the lunch hour after the "runner" had announced that all inmates had to stay indoors. He sensed that a major operation of some kind was going on and, through the glass pane of a barrack door, he could see someone climbing up a ladder on to the roof, opening the lid of a kind of wooden ventilation chimney and emptying the contents of tins down it.

Before he had heard the shouts of SS men and the crying of women and children. Now he only heard the muffled cries of people being gassed. "After a few hours, or it may have been only half-an-hour, the prisoners were allowed to leave the barracks and go back to work."

One of the prisoners went on to the roof and took of the lid of the "ventilation shaft."

"In the evening," the witness continues, obviously not finding it easy, "as I was very shaken by the operation, I watched it going on through the evening and the night." He does not get any further. The presiding judge interrupts. Break for lunch.

After the break and until the proceedings belatedly get under way again, people in the back rows show one another holiday snaps. During the morning while the witness was trying to identify the photographs of camp staff in heavy files, one of the defence lawyers was looking at pin-ups in *Bild.*

Contrasts such as these are hard to take. Dr Pawlak gives an account of what he saw the night after the children were murdered. Their corpses were taken in the same vehicles to the wood where the "wood commando" had the job of burning them.

Then we come to the case of Emil Laurich, the "Angel of Death." This is an experience of which the witness has retained every detail. In the beginning of October 1943, while he was cleaning barrack 21 on Field V where he then lived, he heard a terrible scream on the crematorium side of the camp. He ran out and in the distance he saw the "Angel of Death" maltreating a young woman, pulling her by her hair and her clothes towards the crematorium. Then the woman calmed down and went back with Laurich into the guardroom on Field V.

About an hour later, two SS men and the "Angel of Death" dragged the screaming woman into the crematorium, behind the thick wooden door. A

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■ MEDIA

Press Act still unlikely to meet any deadlines

Bonn Minister of the Interior Gerhard Baum (FDP) is not convinced that proposals for a Press act which would give journalists a certain formal degree of co-determination with newspaper publishers can be realised.

Baum is the FDP's expert on the media and as parliamentary secretary of state to former Bonn Interior Ministers Genscher and Maihofer had a lot to do with press law.

In a statement on 16 December 1976 Chancellor Schmidt said the government would introduce legislation if journalists' and employers' organisations could not reach a settlement by the end of 1978.

The negotiations between journalists and employers are so deadlocked, that no-one expects anything of them. Baum's view is that a legislative solution which failed to satisfy both sides would not be desirable. (Quite apart from the fact that there are journalists who feel that no journalists' organisations represent their point of view on this issue.)

On the other hand, a law which simply said that newspapers had to commit themselves to the free and democratic basic order and that publishers and journalists should work closely together would have little purpose, seeing that most newspapers, with the exception of certain marginal communist and extreme right-wing publications, uphold the basic order.

A high-ranking official of the Bonn Ministry of the Interior is now meeting journalists and employers' organisations to discuss what should go into this law.

However well-informed and diplomatically skilful this civil servant may be, it is hardly likely that he will achieve what publishers and journalists were unable to.

As for the legislation which Chancellor Schmidt announced in 1976, Baum's opinion is that there is no point in trying to impose a solution. The state of negotiations by the autumn will show us how serious the Chancellor and the Bonn government are in their intention to introduce legislation.

Baum was formerly a strong advocate of a Press Act, but both sides rejected his proposals, though for different reasons, before the last elections. The opponents ranged from the Hamburg news magazine *Der Spiegel* through the left-liberal *Die Zeit* to conservative publications.

It is considered possible that a Bonn government which was itself critical of or rejected a Press Act could be forced by pressure from the parties to introduce such a law. Chancellor Schmidt regards the plan with a mixture of indifference and disdain, but this does not rule out that he might give way to pressure from his party or coalition.

The SPD parliamentary party has formed a working party to prepare a draft Press Act including MPs from Bahr to Thüsing. It can be assumed that they will advocate some form of co-determination.

Bonn MP Nöbel, an SPD media expert, was cautious on this point recently. He said the government report on the press and radio would have to be available before the party could take steps. He is waiting for a statement by new Minister of the Interior Baum, "who has been closely interested in this question."

The FDP committees on media policies in which Baum continues to play a leading part do not spend much time now on the Press Act. They have turned their attention towards the "new media."

FDP parliamentary party media spokesman Kleinert from Hanover has said that the party does not intend to produce its own draft for a Press Act. A government draft Act could be passed during this legislation if it were presented to the Bundestag before the beginning of 1979. Kleinert said that a joint SPD-FDP draft proposal was conceivable.

The CDU-CSU opposition has said through its media spokesman Hugo Klein, also a Bundestag MP, that the regulation "of legal relations between publishers and journalists is primarily a matter for those directly concerned." There were "more pressing tasks than the production of further draft proposals for a Press Act."

Interior Minister Baum's analysis of the political constellation at the moment is that pressure from the SPD left wing, who would like to see regulations similar to those at "group universities", would get nowhere. This is because the majority of the SPD favour an extension of the general law on co-determination in businesses, which would include newspaper publishers.

This would would mean the abolition or at least the dilution of the "tendency protection paragraphs" which limit the rights of works councils in newspaper publishing companies. Co-determination of all employees in a newspaper company, including the technical staff in the widest sense, is not what the FDP wants.

Baum clearly tends towards the view that the differences in the Bonn coalition and in the senior coalition party, the SPD, will eventually lead to a rejection of legislation in this field.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 20 July 1978)

Carter's ideals

Continued from page 3

ding. The statesman Jimmy Carter is now doing just this.

If the Federal Republic of Germany left him alone in these endeavours, or attempted to prevent him, this would be culpable disloyalty — not only to Carter and his country but also to the freedom movements in the East bloc.

Matthias Walden
(Die Welt, 21 July 1978)

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muffled shot was heard. The SS men came back, the "Angel of Death" got on his bike and rode off towards the "political department."

Laurich was mostly to be seen on his bicycle. There was a rumour in the camp that he had volunteered to execute prisoners. If there was one prisoner, he walked alone with him to the crematorium. If there were more, two SS men came along as guards.

Emil Laurich sits motionless, unmoved. He does not scream, he does not fight for air, he does not even appear to be troubled. Nothing. Is he even listening?

These accused cannot have any sense of guilt. They give the impression that they still believe that everything they did then was right. They have remained true to themselves.

They were Hitler's Youth in the concentration camps, hardly more than 20 then. Now they are Hitler's adults.

In her book on the Eichmann trials, Hannah Arendt wrote of the "banality of evil." Eichmann had "never imagined what he was doing." It was "sheer thoughtlessness."

I keep on wondering if, on a different level, this does not apply to the accused at Düsseldorf, who tortured their victims with their own hands and feet, and for many of their former colleagues.

The question is futile, the answer would change nothing. We need only to know what people are capable of.

A. Schmidt-Biesalski
(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 23 July 1978)

Television heads plan to reduce the body count

The directors of West Germany's regional ARD television channels decided at a recent meeting in Berlin to clamp down on television violence.

However, they do not intend to do away with death and murder on evening TV programmes altogether. In future they will merely attempt to halt the flood of brutal scenes and sounds of bloody bodies and breaking bones.

Media expert Herbert Heinrichs counted 80 corpses in various TV thrillers in one week last year. The ARD directors have decided to take a deprivation cure from this orgy of violence. For 1978, 39 thrillers, mainly on Thursdays and Sundays are to be dropped from the programme and the popular *Tatort* (Scene of the Crime) series, will have less violence. New ARD programme director Dietrich Schwarzkopf wants "soft thrillers" in future

There is little doubt after extensive scientific analyses of the subject in recent years that excessive violence on television can have a bad effect on viewers, especially the young.

Constant exposure to brutality on the television screen makes us indifferent to brutality in life. Mindless and cynical American imports such as Superstar, The Streets of San Francisco and Starsky and Hutch, in which scenes ranging from kicks in the crotch to shooting to kill are common, pave the way for a climate of insecurity and fear, in which there is a danger that people may start calling for a strong man to restore law and order.

Programmes such as those mentioned do not go into the question of how violence comes about and how — apart from even cruder counter-violence — it can be overcome.

The disappearance of them from our screens is no loss. However the second German television channel (ZDF) is not as scrupulous as the ARD. It has just bought and intends to screen the Starsky and Hutch series.

One cannot give unqualified approval to this campaign to clean up television thrillers. There is a danger that Schwarzkopf's philosophy will be put into practice with such German thoroughness that not only fun and excitement but the portrayal of reality will suffer.

A thriller without violence is like an opera without music. As soon as this genre is dominated by nice fellows, it has lost its raison d'être. To play down

DIE ZEIT

violence is almost as bad as to crudely exaggerate it. There is no shortage as it is of false idylls on our screens.

The question therefore must not be: do we show violence or do we not show violence? What matters is how this violence is presented. Statistics on corpses and arbitrary limits of how many bodies may appear weekly on our screen are less help than clear and precise portrayals of the roots and motives of violence, the conditions under which it occurs.

This applies not only to television thrillers and television films but also to cinema films shown on TV, from Visconti's Rocco and His Brothers through Bergmann's Shame to Stanley Kubrick's Clockwork Orange. Are such films to be cut and "defused" in future? There are already signs that the idyll-loving censors are itching to get their scissors into film such as these.

If this happened, we would soon find ourselves in a situation similar to that in America, where Otto Preminger had to go the Supreme Court in Washington to get an uncut version of his film Anatomy of a Murder shown on TV.

The anatomy of a murder, the complex relationship between criminal and victim, the description of social milieu: these elements are missing in German thrillers, though some of the films in the *Tatort* series have been better in this respect than the conveyor belt sterility of *Der Alte* and *Derrick*.

A general ban on violence in thrillers will get us nowhere, what is needed is better scripts and more meticulous productions. These cannot simply be prescribed by a programme conference.

Finally: thrillers do not always have to be about murders, which are not high on the crime statistics. A juicy case of financial skullduggery in high places could certainly be exciting and perhaps even comical — with no blood flowing and no bullets flying.

Hans Blumenberg
(Die Zeit, 14 July 1978)

THE ECONOMY

Western summit proves intricate chess game

The mid-July Western economic summit in Bonn, attended by the United States, Canada, Britain, France, Italy, the Federal Republic of Germany and Japan, increasingly became a game of chess between Washington and Bonn. While the Americans committed themselves to saving energy, the Germans undertook to prime the economic pumps, entailing a controversial increase in the budget deficit and possibly stepping up inflation.

While not specifying growth targets, Bonn is probably willing to plough between half and one per cent of GNP into economic growth.

Some such decision would probably have been necessary with or without the Western economic summit, given the consideration lately given to tax cuts.

This pump-priming commitment would seem to entail expenditure of between DM 6,000m and DM 12,000m. On the details, there has been talk among the Bonn coalition parties in particular of a "rule of three."

This is taken to mean a combination of:

1. Income tax cuts, primarily by lowering the sliding scale.

2. Cuts in corporation tax and other taxes on the business community.

3. Encouraging structural investment.

The "rule of three" would mean something for everyone, but not much for anyone. So it is by no means certain to have the desired economic effect.

Tax revenue this year will be an estimated 10 per cent up on expectations, but most of it will go towards financing the six to seven per cent by which the 1978 budget will overshoot the mark.

A one-per-cent increase in value-added tax from 12 to 13 per cent would bring in between DM 6,000m and DM 6,500m more in a full year, but is unlikely to be imposed before 1980.

So the extra expenditure promised by Chancellor Schmidt as an economic boost means the money will almost certainly need to be raised on money markets if it is to start from next January.

The signs are that the package will be implemented from the New Year, so interest rates for one will not stay at the present low level.

In return for Bonn's undertaking to invest in economic expansion, Herr *Schmidt has got Mr Carter to promise to prune US energy consumption.*

This is important for Bonn because it seems to be the only way to keep the influx of dollars that has led to the continued decline in the value of the dollar in terms of deutschemarks within reasonable limits.

Experience has shown that President Carter may have trouble keeping his side of the bargain, however. Will he succeed in reducing US oil imports from 12 million to 10 million barrels a day by 1985?

Will he succeed in realigning the complex domestic system of US energy prices to correspond to international market levels by 1980?

Both questions are crucial and both commitments must be met, experts feel, because by 1980 the oil market will be radically different. Supply will no longer exceed demand.

A further point in the final summit communiqué was that the seven leading trading nations of the West intend to rely increasingly on coal for energy and also to step up the development of atomic energy.

This point is relevant to a sensitive issue discussed in Bonn. At last year's London summit the United States and Canada promised to defer nuclear decisions until a survey of the nuclear fuel cycle has been completed.

Since the two countries only recently lifted their ban on supplies of uranium to the EEC, they have clearly failed to fulfil this condition. But in Bonn they renewed the undertaking.

The final communiqué sheds little light on the pressure put on Japan to dismantle its mainly non-tariff trade barriers.

But there is certainly little point in Tokyo abolishing import duties on motor vehicles while keeping or amending licensing regulations in such a way that importers can hardly fail to be deterred from trying to penetrate the Japanese market.

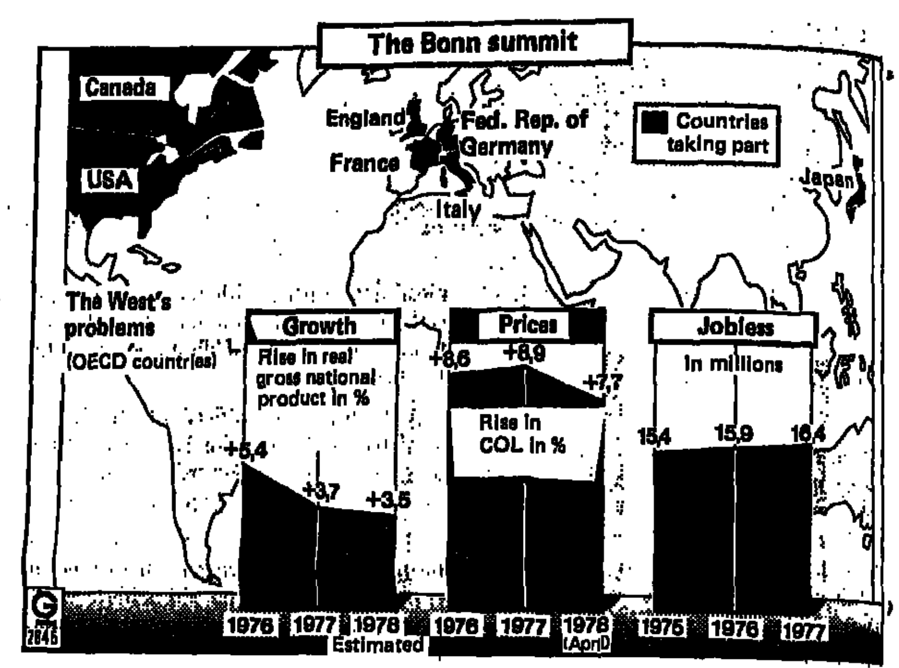
At the summit Japan seems to have offered to invest heavily in US and European aircraft, but this was regarded more or less as a diversion.

Viewed from Europe, Premier Takeo Fukuda's offer to aim at a seven-per-cent growth rate is no substitute for easier access to the Japanese market either.

The Americans, however, take a different, more positive view of the Japanese offer.

Before the Gatt round at Geneva, Washington was expecting more substantial concessions, especially in agriculture and less because of their size than because the US farm lobby needed pacifying.

The farm lobby is powerful in Europe too. Trading in chicken breasts and citrus fruit is a very delicate issue, it was argued behind the scenes in Bonn.



In the medium term, results so far at the current Gatt round are far from satisfactory. President Carter's mandate to cut US tariffs expires at the end of the year and better use might have been made of it.

Talks about selective protectionism, as practised by the United States in particular, have certainly proved extremely difficult.

Washington evidently objects to international bodies deciding in any way the circumstances under which protective measures for specific industries are to be abolished.

The Western leaders took care to avoid committing themselves to figures at Bonn, because, as US experience has shown only too clearly, domestic circumstances, such as parliamentary and Cabinet approval, influence whether such targets can be reached.

By and large, the United States, Britain, Italy and Canada were expected to do more to combat inflation, whereas the Federal Republic, France and Japan were expected to do more to boost growth. The communiqués did not go into details.

There were many other praiseworthy declarations of intent. The European Community, for instance, promised to abolish trade barriers, while the Americans understook not to regard the proposed European monetary system as a blow aimed at the United States.

Mr Carter took longer than expected to concede this point, incidentally.

Behind the scenes it was hinted that the European currency stabilisation arrangement would probably lead to inflation rates drawing level in France and Germany: down in France and up in Germany.

A figure mentioned unoficially is the four-per-cent inflation level that Bonn reportedly feels might be acceptable if unemployment could perceptibly be reduced.

Does this mean inflation is to be tolerated to boost the economy? Express reference is made here to a world economic imbalance. This probably relates to Bonn's Economic Growth Act and is intended to offset constitutional objections to deficit spending.

Psychologically, the fourth Western economic summit was a success. *All* parties realised that no one country was strong enough to cope with international economic problems on its own.

A feeling of dependence on each other grew, as did Herr Schmidt's strategy of joint activity.

Everyone would like to secure the best terms for himself, so time will tell the extent to which good intentions can be put into practice.

If the final summit documents are scoured for specific agreements they are less likely to be considered unduly satisfactory.

Franz Thoma

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 18 July 1978)

Eurocurrency: sorting out the details

The Common Market monetary committee, meeting in Brussels on 19 July, set about the daunting task of framing practical proposals to flesh out the European monetary system endorsed by EEC leaders at the Bremen summit.

On 28 July the Finance Ministers of the Nine met to discuss details, about which the heads of government were decidedly hazy in Bremen. And it is always the small print that causes the trouble.

No-one seriously expects the deadline laid down in a spate of enthusiasm by Chancellor Schmidt and President Giscard d'Estaing to be met.

So there is scant hope of agreement by the end of this year. Most observers would be well satisfied if details were clarified during 1979.

This will call for a large number of committee meetings, but monetary specialists at the Bundesbank in Frankfurt have already drawn up the essentials.

They are:

1. No obligation to intervene too heavily in money markets either inside or outside the European currency union.

2. Revision of exchange partities for individual currencies in good time.

3. Maintenance of full independence on national credit policies, especially control of the amount of money in circulation.

There need be little worry on this last point. France will be the last country to sacrifice one iota of monetary sovereignty, not even to the concept of European integration.

In other words, a European monetary fund of whatever shape will not be entitled to intervene independently on money markets. The Bremen summit made no such provision.

Bundesbank experts, for instance, would be inclined to regard the defence of a dollar exchange rate by the EEC as interference in money policy.

At present two options seem to be in the running:

— The first, evidently preferred by Bonn, is based on the ECU, or European currency unit, with intervention rates fixed at specified levels as in the Snake.

— The second provides for a margin of one per cent on either side of exchange rates expressed in ECUs. This would be a more or less uncontrollable arrangement, since not only national currency exchange rates but also those of the ECU would float.

In other words, the second option provides for a flexible yardstick. But even if it were to be fixed, a margin of only one per cent in either direction must surely prove over-ambitious.

Look at the Snake, for instance. It runs on margins of two-and-a-half per cent either way, yet has still had a decidedly chequered career over the years.

An instance of the need for agreement on details in the harmless-sounding formula in the Bremen communiqué that exchange rate changes are in future only to be made by mutual agreement.

But how? One country must not be

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BUSINESS

Big shareholders squeeze 'small men' off boards

Twenty years after the acclaimed birth of the *Volksaktienidee*, the sale of shares in denationalised companies to private individuals, the small shareholders in the Federal Republic of Germany have been given a decent burial.

Major shareholders and the banks hve taken advantage of the new law on wider co-determination (which stipulates new supervisory board elections) to get rid of the small shareholders' representatives on the boards.

The most spectacular case is that of the Hanover firm Preussag, the first "people's" joint-stock company formed 20 years ago. It has fired all four small shareholders' representatives on its supervisory board. A number of the company's 120,000 shareholders rightly criticised the move and described it as an affront at the last general meeting.

Preussag is not the only culprit. Many other companies have used the new co-determination law to reshuffle their supervisory boards, getting rid of small shareholders' representatives who have no strong lobby behind them.

The future parity of capital and labour on supervisory boards will mean that the small shareholders (who do not in normal German usage count as capitalists) will be pulverised between these two forces. On the side of capital, the banks and the bosses of big companies are often represented on one another's boards and thus can present an almost unbroken front against the representatives of the trades unions and the works councils.

The small shareholders have no place in this completely polarised system — a side effect of the new law which parliament, a staunch supporter of savings for all, certainly did not intend.

The trades unions are as interested as the representatives of capital in solid fronts and they are not going to lift a finger to help the small shareholders, whom they consider to be capitalists.

The banks have gone out of their way to play down the sacking of the small shareholders' representatives by saying that they represent small shareholders on supervisory committees because they have proxy votes for them.

There is a major snag to this argument. Whenever important decisions are made on supervisory boards, and banks are involved in conflicts between their interests as creditors and those of the small shareholders, they will certainly decide in their own interests. No-one can blame them for this, because their own business transactions depend on making profits, or at least avoiding losses. Efforts in difficult times to get out of a credit commitment without great loss are often difficult to reconcile with the interests of small shareholders, who regard their shares as permanent possessions.

The banks are not completely unjustified in regarding themselves as the representatives of small shareholders who have given them a right to vote for them by proxy for a limited period. This is the essence of the problem of having representatives of small shareholders on supervisory boards. There are many shareholders' clubs, associations and other groups who specialise in representing the small man at annual general meetings. But compared with the large number of shareholders who have transferred their votes to the banks, these groups are not big enough and simply to not hve the power to force through their point of view.

One could be cynical and say that small shareholders have only themselves to blame for their lack of influence in their companies. In large public companies with hundreds of thousands of shareholders, the small shareholders could unite their votes to command a majority. It would then be easy for them to vote one or more representatives on to the supervisory board.

There are several reasons why they do not do this and are more or less dependent on the generosity of others in giving them a seat on the board. Most small shareholders regard their shares as a capital investment bringing a certain additional income during their working lives or when they have retired. They are not usually interested in company matters.

Many of them believe their shares are in good hands when they are with the banks and are quite happy with the arrangement. Most small shareholders are older people reluctant to switch to a shareholder's club because this would involve initiative and hard work.

Apart from these reasons, all more or less connected with the lethargy of the small shareholder, there is another serious objection to shareholders' clubs. In recent years they have shot up like mushrooms. Outsiders find it extremely difficult to judge them. Certainly there are sound and reliable shareholders' associations, but there are also those in which the founders and chairmen are on the make, using the club as as springboard for a seat on the board. Often they use their members for their own career ambitions and drop them when they have reached their goals.

There are also cases where wily club chairmen use members' votes to feather their own nests. They use the weight these shares give them to bring legal actions, having bought shares with their own money or with loans in order to profit from speculation on a successful end to the suits. Most of them have no chance of success but they do stir the imagination of the stock exchange. As the founders of shareholders' clubs start the actions with the aid of lawyers, they often know at what point in the protracted litigation they should sell their shares. By the time the small shareholders wake up, the founders have long since made their killings and the shares have slumped.

Sometimes the spokesmen for shareholders' groups try directly or indirectly to do business with companies — often for cash payments — by trying to put the companies under pressure. They promise, for example, that they will not raise awkward questions about certain problems at annual meetings, problems which could be highly embarrassing for the company if aired at meetings. These cases are rarely made public because the companies themselves have an interest in keeping them quiet. Many a director can tell off the record tales of attempted blackmail.

These cases are certainly exceptions and do not mean that shareholders' clubs are paradises for businessmen on the make. But the fact that there are rogue clubs makes it difficult for the honest ones to attain the importance they should have in view of the structure of the share system.

All that is left for serious representatives is to represent the small men at general meetings, especially now that it has been made far more difficult for them to get on to supervisory boards. To sum up my impressions of general meetings this year, I can say that the serious small shareholders' representatives have done a good job on the whole.

They get the credit for the fact that certain firms were forced to reveal details of matters they had deliberately omitted from their annual reports and other pronouncements. The advantage of such moves for shareholders is that from this reluctantly revealed information they can form a better picture of the company and its chances to help them decide whether to hang on to or get rid of the shares.

It should not be forgotten that the professionals among the small shareholders' spokesmen have gone a long way towards disproving the dictum attributed to the banker Fürstenberg that "shareholders are stupid and cheeky; stupid because they buy shares and cheeky because they expect dividends from them." If we look back to the early days of *Volksaktienidee* companies such as Preussag and Volkswagen, before spokesmen such as Erich Nold and Kurt Fiebich started appearing at meeting, there is no doubt that company management was unashamedly unwilling to tell the shareholders what was going on.

In the past few years, particularly when companies were in awkward economic situations, shareholders' spokesmen have consistently shown that they take the wellbeing of the company into account as well as their own interests. Frequently they encouraged the company not to pay a dividend in a certain year but to give priority to strengthening the firm, knowing that the shareholders would benefit from this reinvestment policy in the long run.

This shows that the representatives of shareholders are perfectly capable of bearing the overall interests of the company in mind. This does not, of course, apply to all of them — certainly not to those who pressure companies to pay big dividends in fat years without stopping to consider whether they will have adequate reserves for the lean.

A favourite argument of shareholders' spokesmen at meeting is that the banks and other large companies on the supervisory boards, not to mention the trades union representatives, hold so many posts that they simply cannot pay enough attention to individual companies. Superficially there is something to to be said for this point. Even if it were true, the question would still remain: who is of more use to the company — a small shareholder with the time and the expertise for such a post, or, for example, the boss of a large company who is also an important customer and can influence its sales and success?

Even if we conclude that there are more important supervisory board members than small shareholders, this argument does not apply to all the representatives of banks and large companies on supervisory boards. It is quite simply a poor show that many companies are trying to kick small shareholders' representatives off the supervisory boards.

Perhaps the answer, at least for big public companies, would be associations in which only the shareholders of one company would be members. There could and should be a seat for their representatives on the board.

Volkswagen boss Toni Schmücker spoke favourably of such an association of shareholders at the last general meeting of Volkswagen in Wolfsburg.

Hansjürgen Wehrmann

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 15 July 1978)

Continued from page 6

entitled to a veto, but neither must an individual country be allowed to go it alone arbitrarily.

A solution is nowhere in sight, but conceivably greater flexibility could be observed on exchange rates than under the fixed-rate Bretton Woods arrangement.

Credit facilities are likely to prove specially difficult, given that a number of arrangements already exist in Europe. The Snake, for instance, provides for automatic 45-day credit facilities with no ceiling.

The trouble is that there have already been suggestions about extending this Snake facility to six months or even a year. For the time being, at least, Bonn is strenuously opposed to any such idea.

As for medium- and long-term credit facilities, a number or all EEC arrangements might conceivably be transferred to a European monetary fund.

This fund is seen as providing drawing rights based on a pooled percentage of members' gold and foreign exchange reserves as backing for market intervention.

Few objections could be made if only goldf and foreign exchange, say dollars, were to be pooled, but unfortunately there have been proposals for the depositing of member-countries' own currencies, such as francs or lire.

EMF drawing rights would thus be a soft currency with an admixture of harder ones and, sad to say, it may well be impossible to ward off such ideas altogether.

Delegates from Bonn could for the time being certainly advocate a payment ceiling for member-currencies.

European monetary matters entail such tricky and far-reaching issues that it is difficult to imagine decisions being taken without the assent of national parliaments.

Take, for instance, the 20 per cent of national gold and foreign currency reserves to be provided as collateral for the EMF. Will their use be authorised or not?

Depending on the arrangements, the Bundesbank might even baulk at the idea. This would delay matters no less than the fact that France is the only EEC non-member of the Snake seriously interested in a monetary union.

France, with inflation currently at 12 per cent, is keen to cut it back to seven per cent or so by the end of the year and firmly resolved to throw in its lot with the European monetary system.

Will France, then, be footing the bill? A number of observers think so.

Otto Schwarzer

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 19 July 1978)

ENERGY

Gas from coal gets set for a fiery future

Converting coal in the seam into gas is one of the most interesting possibilities of generating power from fossil fuels.

A number of countries are seriously experimenting with coal gasification. Research and development in the Federal Republic of Germany are subsidised by the Bonn Research and Technology Ministry.

Until recently engineers and scientists intended to start field trials of in-seam coal gasification in the Saar, but plans have been changed and brought forward.

Within the next year or two trials are to begin in a Belgian coalfield, backed by German and Belgian research facilities including Aachen University of Technology department of metallurgy, Saarberg-Interplan, Bergbauforschung GmbH of Essen, Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm and Iniex of Belgium.

Coal gasification via boreholes drilled to the seam has a number of advantages over conventional mining. It is less expensive and dangerous, dispensing with coalface workings altogether.

It also brings the prospect of exploiting deposits either too poor to be worked conventionally at a profit or too deep.

Once gasification is feasible, the estimated reserves of German coalfields will automatically be several times larger than at present.

Coal deposits to 2,000 metres (6,562ft) are estimated at 280,000 million tons by Beckervordersandforth and Franke, writing in the *mining journal Glückauf*.

But only a fraction is in rich and accessible seams and it will be decades before accessible deposits are exhausted to this depth.

A further 500,000 million tons are estimated to await exploitation at depths of up to 5,000 metres (16,405ft), but conventional workings are unlikely ever to mine at this depth to any extent.

Gasification also converts coal directly into a valuable form of energy fast growing scarce on world markets.

It is not a new idea. Coal gasification has been debated for decades and is practised on a large scale at six mines in the Soviet Union, where techniques have been developed since the 30s.

But the gas producted was not the right quality, so Soviet scientists started experimenting with new techniques at about the same time as the West, where the 1973 oil crisis prompted greater research and development.

Research is particularly intensive in the United States, where Erda, the national development agency, is sponsoring four projects, each using a different technique.

Texas Utilities, a mining corporation, are experimenting with Soviet methods. A consortium of 11 other private companies have backed trials since last autumn.

Developments in the United States are so advanced that a 60-megawatt pilot project is to be built in 1982. This experimental power station will be fired by weak gas piped from the seam.

By 1982 Erda plans to invest $260m in coal gasification, whereas a mere DM12.5m has been earmarked for projects in the Federal Republic over the next few years.

Coal is already gasified in a number of Czech fields, and developments are well under way in both Britain and Canada.

There is a range of gasification techniques from which to choose. Air, oxygen-enriched steam and possibly hydrogen can all be used as agents.

The quality of gas generated depends on the technique and the agent, but all techniques require several boreholes.

The gasification agent is pumped into the seam thorough one borehole and the gas pumped out via another. Another channel must link the two to maintain nonstop production.

This channel is opened up by a technique borrowed from petroleum engineering. A subterranean fracture is created with the aid of pressurised water and compressed air.

The fracture is widened by burning the coal in the broken seam. In rich seams a link between the two boreholes can be established by drilling at a tangent from one.

Another technique with which mining engineers have experimented is blasting to loosen the seam.

In the past air has usually been the agent used in gasification. The air supply can be adjusted to regulate combustion of coal in the seam.

The coal is set alight in the seam, air pumped in to keep it burning, and carbon monoxide is given off that can then be burnt above ground.

The product, known as weak gas, has *a calorific value of between 900 and* 1,500 kilocalories per cubic metre and is best used for power stations.

This gas is not yet an inert or noble gas that can be classified as grade A energy. Research on both sides of the Atlantic ia aimed at producing gas of pipeline quality.

At Aachen University of Technology, Professor Wenzel and Herr Beckervordersandforth aim to convert in-seam coal into pure methane, or natural gas, with a calorific value of 10,000 kilocalories per cubic metre.

Techniques employed by the Aachen metallurgists include high-pressure gasification (pumping gas at up to 60 or more times atmospheric pressure into the seam) and variable pressure (to improve throughput in the seam as the coal is gradually converted into gas).

Experiments with more effective agents are also in progress. Oxygen-enriched steam, for instance, seems likely to produce a mixture of carbon monoxide and steam with a calorific value of between 3,000 and 5,000 kilocalories per cubic metre.

Blocks of coal up to four metres long are gasified in the university laboratories in these experiments.

A mixture of this quality could profitably be pumped to the surface and refined, possibly to methane. In-seam hydrogenation would be even better, methane being generated by pumping hydrogen straight into the seam.

The Aachen project director cannot say whether this process will prove feasible, but if it does, coal can then be converted into gas as effectively as by the *natural process*.

Coal deposits are formed by a process known as coalification, during which the coal grows steadily richer in hydrocarbons and methane escapes as fire-damp or pit gas.

Where this methane accumulates in nearby sandstone strata it can be extracted as valuable natural gas.

The Dutch natural gas fields, the world's third-largest, originated in this way. They are simply pit gas generated by gasification of coal seams and accumulated in sandstone strata.

Experiments in the United States have shown that coal can not only be gasified via boreholes but also to strict specifications.

Provided the in-seam process is accurately measured and air input regulated, the gas can be maintained at a specific calorific value.

The development of caverns in the seam can also be controlled, thus ensuring that the entire process occurs according to plan.

Flooding remains a problem, however, as in workings everywhere. In the Soviet *Union difficulties have at times arisen* because gasification temperatures were too high. Coal ash melted and blocked the channel between the two boreholes.

This risk can be offset by using a measurement and control technique devised in the United States. This will be available for the Belgian pilot project.

These first full-scale trials in Western Europe will be in a seam about 1,000 metres (3,281ft) under ground, using the seam fracture technique borrowed from US petroleum engineers but used in the United States much nearer ground level.

High pressure (of up 50 atmospheres) and possibly variable pressure will be employed experimentally.

But complex processes are involved, and regulating combustion and hydrogenation 1,000 and more metres under ground is anything but easy. *H. Steinert*

(Deutsche Zeitung, 14 July 1978)

Solar power conference draws many

With 1,000 delegates from 43 countries 75 exhibitors and 150 papers read at the second international solar forum at Hamburg's Congress Centre, solar energy is clearly a force to be reckoned with.

Harnessing solar energy is a branch of science and technology that must be taken seriously. It is steadily gaining in commercial and industrial importance.

Solar heating is a recognised technique in central heating and water heating although it may not yet be considered to have reached maturity.

But teething troubles or not, customers can take their choice. Solar heating systems are manufactured by both imaginative outsiders and major, established electrical engineering firms.

Solar heating is sure to cut oil consumption over the next 10 to 20 years — the time it will take for a significant number of homes to be heated this way.

Encouraging though developments may be, a realistic approach is advisable over other uses of solar energy — especially the production of hydrogen as a substitute for oil and electric power.

Developments here are very much in their early days. "Technology does not progress by leaps and bounds," said state secretary Hans-Hilger Haunschild of the Bonn Research Ministry, in his opening address.

He was referring to solar technology in connection with the experimental solar power station the Common Market is building in Sicily. Its installed capacity will be one megawatt, as *against* the 1,000 megawatts or so of conventional power stations.

Solar cells that directly convert sunlight into electric power — a promising prospect of power output decentralisation — are likewise still in their infancy.

A torch powered by a solar battery retails at DM115, a solar-powered cigarette lighter costs DM840. Solar cells still only make economic sense where electric power is unavailable.

In addition to powering communications satellites, they could, for instance, be used to power radio transmitters on isolated hilltops.

A similar use suggested by a US manufacturer at the conference is to power electric fences on isolated farmland in, say, Texas or Arizona.

Even so, solar cells remain the sector in which surprise discoveries may yet be made, resulting in rapid progress.

Simulation of photosynthesis, on the other hand, has not even left the drawing-board. A paper on the this subject referred to initial ideas and preliminary experiments.

A few years ago, Herr Haunschild said, utilisation of solar energy in temperate latitudes was considered a virtual impossibility.

This was indeed the accepted view, and in retrospect one can but wonder how public opinion and even Research Ministry planners can have been so shortsighted before the 1973 oil embargo. People simply failed to realise that oil reserves would not last forever and that nuclear power might prove a problem.

Solar energy unquestionably has much to offer as one of the most important ways of stretching the world's declining petroleum reserves.

Had this been appreciated a decade ago, many a barrel of oil could by now have been saved. *Helmut Falkenstörfer*

(Neue Ruhr Zeitung, 15 July 1978)

RESEARCH

Marine biologists studying Baltic jellyfish plague

Jellyfish are a seasonal pest that infuriate fishermen, holidaymakers and power station engineers and this year Kiel university marine biologists are taking a closer look at them. In Baltic coastal waters there are times when they so fill the nets that fishing has to be abandoned.

Holidaymakers on the Baltic beaches take a dim view of the armadas of jellyfish, even though few of them are the stinging variety: contact is unpleasant enough.

Jellyfish have even been known to block pipelines that carry seawater from Kiel Bay to the local power station for cooling.

Kiel University marine biologists have reported the first of this season's jellyfish shoals in the Baltic, and *Sagitta*, the research cutter run by the oceanology department, is regularly combing the Baltic with special nets to catch various species.

For several years the annual laments about jellyfish invasions of the Baltic have been so loud as to give the impression that this is something new.

Many people think there are more jellyfish these days because pollution has increased, and with it the amount of nutrient in the seawater.

Yet jellyfish shoals have reached plague proportions in the past. In 1880, for instance, a Kiel oceanologist reported so many jellyfish in Kiel Bay that an oar stood upright in the water.

No-one knows whether the number of jellyfish later declined and has recently begun to increase or whether observations are merely not available for the period since.

Biologists in the Kiel University oceanology department have only started to investigate the jellyfish as a biological factor in the ecology of the Baltic over the past year or two.

Summer shoals of jellyfish (which are made up of more than 99.5 per cent water) may turn out to be much more important in the Baltic's ecological system than has been thought.

First research findings indicate that at least 10,000 million jellyfish inhabit the Baltic coast from Flensburg to Lübeck during the holiday season.

In July they are about 20 centimetres (8in) in diameter, so in line they would extend from the earth to the moon and back several times.

The true number is probably much larger, since the coastal dragnet on which this estimate is based only covers surface waters. Further out and deeper there are even more jellyfish.

They start life in spring when their seabed parents release millions of larvae that lie in the water until they reach maturity.

Catches indicate that most of them are sired on the beds of secluded Baltic bays where east winds do not directly reach the coast, such as Gelting, Eckernförde, Kiel and Hohwacht bays.

Hannoversche Allgemeine

There larvae fast develop into recognisable jellyfish with their transparent saucer-shaped bodies and extensile marginal tentacles.

As summer progresses they grow and grow, reaching full size in autumn. Their maximum diameter is an estimated 40 centimetres (16in).

In autumn they disappear, to die, presumably of hunger.

Their biomass is so enormous that as the year goes by jellyfish in the western Baltic probably eat their way through everything the sea has to offer in edible micro-organisms.

Kiel fishery biologist M. Kerstam, who has studied their eating habits, says jellyfish can make a meal out of virtually anything in the sea, including small fish 2 to 2 1/2 cm, or an inch, in length.

In their "youth" jellyfish live on a diet of algae, or plankton. They later eat water fleas and enormous quantities of mussel larvae and fish spawn, especially herring and sprats.

They have even been found to contain half-digested remains of spiders and insects' eggs.

As summer goes by the food requirements of jellyfish shoals swiftly increase. In June they eat 30 tons of biomass per day, in July between 130 and 150 tons, and probably a similar amount in August.

Than, however, they are so big that they are evidently unable to find enough food to meet subsistence requirements, let alone sustain growth.

It must be assumed that the enormous shoals slowly die of hunger in autumn, having almost exhausted their environment of food.

But before they die they ensure the survival of the species, performing their biological role and completing their life cycle.

The biomass and appetite of the jellyfish are so enormous that their role in the biocycle of this part of the Baltic must be important, indeed crucial, for part of the year.

They certainly reduce the amount of nutrition available for many other categories of marine life. In spring they compete for food with the larvae of the herring, and as they grow up they scour the sea for food four times as fast as the herring's young.

What is more, they eat enormous quantities of herring larvae. If jellyfish have lately increased, as seems far from improbable, they may well have done so at the herring's expense.

Whether a link exists or the number of jellyfish vary from year to year, affecting other species, including edible fish, remains to be seen.

A jellyfish research project now in progress has been sponsored by the government agency in Geesthacht, near Hamburg, that is responsible for nuclear shipping.

The agency is financing the programme because of the nuisance jellyfish have proved to power station cooling systems.

The project's brief is to chart the distribution of shoals beyond Kiel Bay and in the Baltic proper and to investigate seasonal variations in number, conducting a more accurate "census" than is currently available. *Harald Steinert*

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 20 July 1978)

Animal study sheds light on learning process

Do comparisons between the behaviour of guinea pigs, or any other animals, and human beings hold water? The theories, as old as comparative behavioural science, are being tested in a special research department at Cologne University.

In laboratory experiments with rats and chickens in the psychology department of Cologne University some of the animals were brought up in total isolation to determine factors that influence learning.

The rat experiments lead to the conclusion that learning is mainly a matter of genes, something that has raised more than a few eyebrows.

Professor Wilhelm Franz Angermeyer established experimental psychology of learning and behaviour as a research department at Cologne University four years ago.

It is the only research unit of its kind in the Federal Republic of Germany and virtually unrivalled anywhere in the world.

Childhood and early youth influences are crucial for later behaviour in animals, the phenomenon particularly significant in this context being known as "imprinting."

Imprinting presupposes an inherent, genetically derived behaviour pattern comparable with the controls that govern a machine.

Once the machine is programmed to respond to a particular situation in a particular way, all you need is to press the button or pull the lever and the process takes place as programmed.

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Among animals this automatic response is imprinted during a short but sensitive and critical stage of development when the animal instincts (such as the instinctive habit of following one's parents) are activated.

The creature closest to the young animal during this critical phase is automatically accepted as the parent figure to be followed.

If the animal's parents are not close at this moment, the nearest living creature, even a human being, is substituted.

Experiments with rats have provided Professor Angermeyer with an extremely interesting pointer.

Some rats were brought up socially in groups of four; others isolated in individual cages. The loners were unable to see or make contact with other rats.

Half of each of these two groups were "handled" from the 25th to the 115th days of their lives. The term is used to mean care and attention provided daily for a few minutes by a human "handler."

The growing rats were allowed to nestle in the handler's hand, stroked and shown the other signs of love and attention customarily given small ainimals.

Handling proved most important for subsequent learning ability. "Handled" rats were markedly better learners.

What they learned was to press a lever which released a helping of food. "Handled" animals were particularly quick to appreciate the link between lever and food.

Yet oddly enough, it took all rats roughly the same number of attempts, 25 or so, to learn the lesson. The only difference between slow and fast learners was that the latter completed the trial-and-error routine faster.

It thus seems reasonable to assume that the ability to learn among rats is genetically imprinted more or less uniformly.

Similar experiments are now being conducted with chickens and partridges in the Cologne laboratories to see whether results are the same.

Rats are extremely shortsighted, whereas chickens have very good vision. Chicks need only to see their parents to learn a response, whereas young rats depend more on physical than visual guidance.

Thus chicks' learning mechanisms are not as seriously hampered by solitary confinement.

Two phases can be distinguished during the chick's growing-up period. The first lasts from birth to about ten days old, during which imprinting takes place.

The second phase lasts from ten days to ten weeks. During this time the chick learns social behaviour. By the time it is ten weeks old it has established and appreciated the pecking order.

Domesticated and partridge chicks are treated in a variety of ways in the experiment. Some are subjected to solitary confinement, others are kept apart during the imprint or socialisation phases.

Professor Angermeyer and his Cologne psychologists hope to find out whether imprinting in any way applies to learning ability or behaviour.

If the results indicate this, they would tend to substantiate the idea that learning ability and mechanisms are genetically determined.

Professor Angermeyer will not speculate on what this might imply for our own species. In principle, he feels, the scientific approach to learning may one day be based on much sounder scientific premises than at present.

But this will require increasingly comprehensive and difficult experiments with laboratory animals. The series of experiments with chickens, for one, will take several years.

Dietrich Zimmermann

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 15 July 1978)

■ ART

Paris-Berlin – spotlight on a neglected period

French Prime Minister Raymond Barre recently opened the Paris-Berlin exhibition at the Georges Pompidou Arts Centre in Paris, the first time a major exhibition on the development of German art between 1900 and 1933 has been shown in France.

According to the organisers, this is the most comprehensive survey of the artistics trends of the period in the Federal Republic.

Berlin Lord Mayor Dietrich Stobbe and Hildegard Hamm-Brücher and Klaus von Dohnanyi, joint Ministers of State for Foreign Affairs, attended the opening ceremony. The city of Berlin contributed DM220,000 and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs DM300,000 towards the exhibition, and the most important exhibits come from international museums and private collections.

It is clear from the title that the organisers wanted to show parallels, connections and interrelations or the lack of them between German and French art in the period. They soon realised that the development of German art in this period did not radiate from Berlin but was decentralised, spread throughout the German-speaking area. Paris, on the other hand, was and is the centre of cultural activity in France.

The exchange of information about cultural developments over the Rhine in the first third of the 20th century was rather one-side, most of it moving from France to Germany. The Paris weekly *Le Nouvel Observateur* wrote that the French discovered artistic developments in Germany rather late. The author stresses that in general Paris ignored cultural developments in Berlin between the wars. The proud cosmopolitan Paris for many years took no note of the development of German language culture in Vienna, Prague, Berlin and Budapest. The public in both countries knew very little about what was happening culturally in the other country.

At the beginning of this century many German artists went to Paris to find inspiration and ideas. Paul Klee arrived in 1905 and enthused about the work of Lautre, Daumier, Dore and Matisse. The *Blaue Reiter* group of artists invited Picasso, Braque, Derain, Rouault, Rousseau, Duchamp and Delaunay to their exhibitions. The European avant-garde met at the Berlin gallery *Der Sturm*. Painter Max Ernst contributed to the breakthrough of Surrealism before taking up the cause of Dadaism in the same city.

The French architect Le Corbusier was influenced by the Bauhaus. The department of industrial creation at the Pompidou Centre presents photographs, drawings, furniture and other items showing the development of architecture and town planning on both sides of the Rhine.

There are 450 documents – books, letters and magazines – showing relations between French and German writers. There were numerous friendships between German and French authors: Rilke and Valéry, Gide and Heinrich Mann, Ernst and Eluard, Rolland, Verhaeren and Zweig, to mention a few. The generation of German writers which included Stefan George, Richard Dehmel, Rainer Maria Rilke and Hugo von Hofmannsthal was steeped in French language and culture: Rilke even wrote poetry in French, currently being read in a Paris cafe-theatre.

In Paris at the time there were few Germanophile authors, with the exception of Romain Rolland. This one-sidedness applies equally to translations of German and French literature.

During this exhibition, there will be concerts of the work of Berlin composers Busoni, Schoenberg, Schreker, Hindemith and Weill. The name of the French composer Darius Milhaud is also on the programme. His opera Christopher Columbis (libretto by Paul Claudel) opened in Berlin in 1930 directed by Erich Kleiber.

In the autumn German singer Roswitha Trexel will sing Brecht sings. Films by Ernst Lubitsch, Fritz Lang and Thea von Harbou will give the French public an idea of film trends in the period.

Le *Nouvel Observateur* rightly points out that the Nazi government's anti-culture campaign put an abrupt end to the variety of German cultural achievement.

Uwe Karsten Petersen

(Der Tagesspiegel, 13 July 1978)





Max Beckmann's triptych *Die Abfahrt* of 1932-33 on the Paris-Berlin exhibition in the Georges Pompidou Art Centre in Paris. (Photos: Kaiser)

Taking a journey into the world of Daumier

On exhibition of the work of French cartoonist Honoré Daumier is now on at the Westphalian Museum of Art and Art History in Münster.

Gerhard Langemeyer, who selected the Daumier lithographs on show at the exhibition, writes in the preface to the catalogue that "Daumier was a picture journalist." He sees Daumier, one of the most important cartoonists of the 19th century, as a political journalist.

Daumier produced more than 4,000 cartoons in his career, about 400 of which are on display. We do not see the rare rough proofs but the ordinary press prints. A number of contemporary magazines are on display to remind the visitor of the typical publication of the 19th century.

Honoré Daumier started working for the weekly *La Caricature* in 1832, at the age of 24. The paper had been founded in November 1830 by Charles Philipon and soon became one of the most aggressive critics of the bourgeois king Louis Philippe.

In December 1832 Philipon started publication of *Le Charivari*, a four-page daily which usually had a lithograph, often by Daumier, on the third page.

Philipon was not only a publisher prepared to take risks, he was also a committed political cartoonist himself who gained important insights into the nature of satire in his running battles with the courts.

In issue 35 of *La Caricature* Philipon depicted a mason with the features of Louis Philippe whitewashing revolutionary writings on house walls. He was accused of lèse-majesté and defended himself by saying that the picture represented the power of the state and not the person of the king; he had only used the king's features to symbolise this power. As the body of the mason in the cartoon did not at all resemble the king there was no reason for his majesty to feel insulted.

During the trial Daumier drew four heads. One was an accurate portrait of Louis Philippe and the others were variations and distortions of the original, including a pear-shaped face which was to become the standard cartoon image of the bourgeois king. Daumier asked the judge if there were resemblances between the sketches. Each time the judge said yes. Daumier concluded ironically that this meant that anyone who produced or drew a pear-shaped object would have to be fined or arrested.

The trials in which cartoonists and photomonteurs are sometimes involved in our day are full of the same kind of cunning tricks and subtle arguments and the same dangerous tighrope walk between artistic freedom and personal insult and are often reminiscent of the atmosphere in a Paris court on 14 November 1832.

In his satirical drawings, Daumier

Continued on page 11



Daumier's Emotions Parisiennes (1833): *"What's the time?"*



Les divorceuses (1848): *The furiously emancipated toast emancipation furiously.*



Actualités (1866): *European equilibrium.*

Actualités (1870): *An 1870 landscape*

■ THINKERS

Exhibition honours Buber

An exhibition on the life, work and influence of the Jewish philosopher and theologian Martin Buber, the 100th anniversary of whose birth was on 8 February 1978, is being held in Worms. It came to the city from Israel because of Worms's great tradition, including close links with Buber.

Martin Buber was born in Vienna and brought up by his grandfather in Lemberg. At the turn of the century he spent eight years studying philosophy, the history of art, German and psychology.

He gained his Ph.D in Vienna in 1904 with a work on Nicolaus Cusano and Jacob Böhme. In 1906 he took up a post as a publisher's reader and in 1919 became a teacher at the Jewish Institute in Frankfurt.

He took up a lectureship at Frankfurt University in 1923 and in 1930 was made honorary professor of theology and Jewish ethics. After being sacked by the Nazis, he ran a centre for adult education from 1933 to 1938, when he emigrated to Jerusalem.

Here he was given the professorship of social philosophy at the Hebrew University he had helped to found.

After the war he received many honours. In 1951 the Goethe Prize, in 1953 the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade, an honorary doctorate at the Sorbonne in 1958; the Amsterdam Erasmus Prize in 1963, and in 1965, the year in which he died, honorary citizenship of the city of Jerusalem.

Buber was honoured as a thinker, a researcher a writer and translator. His strength lay in his unique capacity to combine the most ancient with the most modern. The extraordinary power of his language went along with great agility of thought. His translation (along with Franz Rosenzweig) of the Old Testament into German is the most important since Luther's.

We largely have Martin Buber to thank for the fact that Chassidism, the specially Eastern Jewish version of Hebrew piety, with all its many ramifications which appeal to non-Jews, has become widely known.

Buber's commitment to Zionism began in his student days and he devoted many of his writings to the subject. Fifty years and more ago he was aware that the creation of a Jewish state could cause serious conflicts between Jews and Arabs and he devoted his considerable intellectual powers towards peace, but without success.

One of the Israeli speakers at the opening of the exhibition said that Buber's views on this subject were far from "passé." His philosophical achievement is closely connected with the experience that "no-one belives what the other says." Rhineland Palatinate Rabbi Dr Levinson said this reluctance to listen was encouraged by the doctrines of Marx and Freud, with Marx always suspecting material interests behind everything and Freud suspecting attempts at rationalisation.

The "existential suspicion" typical of his age was one of Buber's main problems because he had put his hopes on patient dialogue. One of his most famous sayings is: "I have no dogma, I am engaged in a conversation." The Worms exhibition presents many instances of Buber's willingness to engage in dialogue, of his non-Marxist socialist tendencies and material on the early stages of organised immigration to Israel.

The exhibition was opened by Rhineland Palatinate Prime Minister Vogel, who said he had accepted the task "out of firm conviction." Cardinal Volk and several Land and Bundestag MPs were present, as were leading cultural officials, from Mainz, for example. The music at the opening consisted of songs and dances from Israel and a musical discovery: the work of Salomone Rossi, a Venetian composer who lived from about 1570 to 1628. Rossi came from a Jewish-Italian family and composed very much in the tradition of Monteverdi.

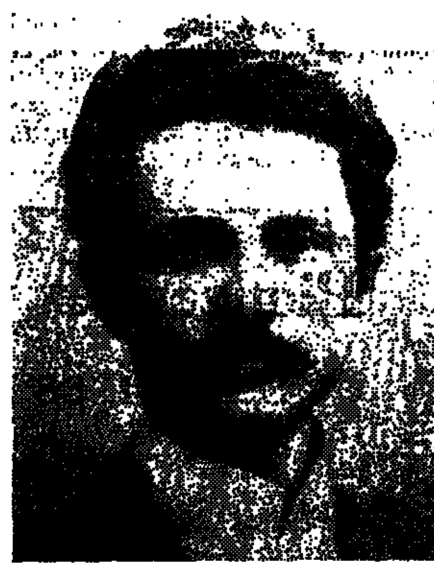
His works played at the exhibition included Hebrew psalms.

It is unfortunate that no-one thought to mention former mayor Pfister, who lost his post recently as a victim of local politics. Pfister was the prime mover behind the exhibition coming to Worms.

Apart from this omission, the opening was appropriate for a display which will not be shown in such comprehensiveness again in any other town.

The exhibition, which occupies a few rooms in the Worms museum complex, poses many questions and provides answers. It reveals historical layers and given pointers. It is a lovingly and expertly put together overall picture of a man's life and influence.

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 18 July 1978)



Martin Buber, philosopher and theologian: "I have no dogma, I am engaged in a conversation." (Photo: Kulturinstitut Worms)

Marcuse at 80: still firm on message of revolt

Herbert Marcuse, who turned 80 on July 19, has never suffered from the illusion that theories can easily be put into or made identical with practice.

He has always been committed, yet objective at the same time, an acute observer who often formulated his insights boldly. It never occurred to him to become politically active himself or to take the part of an intellectual leader in political life.

He has made mocking remarks about political enthusiasts always looking for the historical subject of revolutionary change in our time and clinging to the orthodox Marxist view that the proletariate will yet fulfil its world-historical redemptory role. Marcuse has said often enough that the workers of today have more to lose than their chains.

Why should people feel an urgent need to overthrow the existing order when they hope to achieve their wishes within that order?

Marcuse is critical of the fact that wishes and ambitions do not go beyond this existing order, that the dreams of a better life, of the ideal state and of true happiness are only dreamt by a few intellectuals, to whom the honourable epithet of utopians is applied and given a pejorative meaning.

To avoid drawing the depressing conclusions from his sober analyses, Marcuse always encourages social groups who refused to conform to the dominant system and has often awakened hopes in these groups which they were unable to realise. This applies to the students' movements of ten years ago and to the women's movement of today.

Marcuse knows that those who rely on the revolutionary potential of the working class, which is not identical with the 19th century proletariat, are chasing illusions. That is why he gives his analytical approval to groups which the crisis management of our rulers cannot quite get under control. One of Marcuse's main aims and interests is that his theories should remain open to the possibility "of hitherto undeveloped aspects and elements of theory manifesting themselves in practice."

In his decisive taking of sides on current political issues, Marcuse has differed from his friends Theodor Adorno and Max Horkheimer, who both wanted to remain cautious, sceptical observers. Adorno would never have been prepared to provide handy slogans for rebellious youth and rejected the view that the critical theory of the Frankfurt School should be reduced to courser and simpler propositions because this was what the current situation required.



Herbert Marcuse: no illusions about the unity of theory and practice. (Photo: Sven Simon)

Marcuse is the only major figure of the legendary Frankfurt Institute for Social Research still alive. Re-reading his writings, we see how many of his basic convictions are similar to those of Adorno and Horkheimer and how much his enthusiastic followers and malicious enemies had to overlook this to arrive at "their" Marcuse.

Marcuse believes intellectuals who humbly and bashfully do grassroots work or go into factories practise a false form of direct action which angers him as much as overtly agitatory art. He considers Brecht's little poems more truly political than his too obviously political plays. He says there is more revolution in Alban Berg's Wozzeck than in many an anti-fascist opera and that Samuel Beckett's uncompromising body of work states one clear message: "What now is must come to an end."

Marcuse insists on the right of the individual to solitariness as opposed to the oppressive togetherness of the collective, which is often an end in itself.

Forty years ago, Marcuse pleaded for more obstinacy in philosophy, for an insistence on truth despite all appearances. This is still his belief today.

Manfred Jäger

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 16 July 1978)

Continued from page 10

adopted Philipon's idea of depicting the king with a pear-shaped head and of giving politicians imaginary coats of arms. The arms of the opportunist Dupin, for example, consiste of a weathervane, a pro, a contra and a purse representing final purpose. Daumier gave the big-nosed censor d'Argour a pair of scissors and a cap – symbolising stupidity – as coat of arms.

Daumier's famous caricature Masks of 1831 showed the features of prominent politicians of the July monarchy, with Louis Philippe in the middle, without any tops to their heads. Thus Daumier developed a portrait gallery with the help of which he carried out Philipon's threat that the people would have the opportunity to note the ugly faces of its enemies.

After the censorship laws were tightened up in 1835 Daumier had to concentrate on the depiction of bourgeois morals and manners. The 1848 revolution meant that he once again could practise overt political criticism until Napoleon III came to power and limited freedoms once again.

These thematic shifts came about as a result of the force of circumstances, the transition from directly political to social criticism is a response to the attempts to restrict press freedom.

The Münster exhibition shows the variety of Daumier's themes in groups: deceitful lawyers; rapacious landlords; fearful bourgeois who attempt to appease their guilty consciences by acts of philanthropy; townspeople who cannot find their true selves either when they are hunting or going for long walks.

In an interesting essay in the informative and reasonably priced catalogue, Michael Melot describes how art historians have always depoliticised Daumier by saying he was an artist despite the fact that he drew caricatures, and by leaving out the captions on the grounds that he did not write them.

The Münster exhibition does not adopt this traditional method of making a strict distinction between the sharply analytical political drawings and the more humorous scenes from petit-bourgeois life. Nor does it make the mistake of presenting the caricatures of politicians as having only general human interest because nobody knows their names any more.

This would mean that the controversial photomontages by Klaus Staek which depict living politicians could be considered merely humorous because some of these politicians' names will be forgotten in a hundred years or so.

Manfred Jäger

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 16 July 1978)

■ HEALTH

Chemical workers push plan to cut work hazards

The German chemical industry employees' liabililty association (BG Chemie) wants to see measures implemented to prevent health hazards caused by work materials.

The proposals come at a time when public reaction to thalydomide, venylchlorid and the Seveso disaster underscores the ancient fear of poison.

The BG Chemie programme has as its main short-term priority the perfecting of methods for the safe handling of much-feared carcinogenous substances. BG Chemie heads told the press that this was their priority because it was particularly urgent.

According to reliable estimates, at least 500 new chemical products come on to the market each year. In all 50,000 different substances a year are produced, in amounts from one ton upwards. Of course only a fraction of these are dangerous substances which, according to law, "can lead to serious damage to health or even death after being inhaled, swallowed or absorbed through the skin."

Because chemical workers are constantly in contact with these substances, the industry has acquired the reputation of being more dangerous than others.

Chemical industry representatives directors and works councillors — do not like to hear this said. They regard it as an unfounded accusation and on every possible occasion point to the analysis of their insurers, BG Chemie, who say the hazards in the industry are comparatively low. Statistics show that the chemical industry is 30th out of 35 in the number of illnesses caused at work.

Even so, BG Chemie, in the words of Wilhelm Wessel of Hanover, chairman of its assembly, does not want to "play down" but to "reduce" the dangers of dangerous materials at work.

According to the German Research Institute, there are now 12 substances identified as in all probability causing various forms of "professional cancer."

Dr Paul Versen of Heidelberg, leading executive of BG Chemie, says there are another 21 substances suspected of being carcinogenous as a result of experiments on animals.

The BG Chemie programme is based on these 33 substances. It first of all wants to establish who comes into contact with them — present information is that there could be 20,000 workers in some 220 firms.

Parallel with this census work protection measures are to be introduced, or rather intensified, on a number of levels in accordance with practices common in German industry for decades.

Under these principles, organisational, medical and technical measures must complement one another. This means companies must try to replace harmful substances with less harmful ones and, if this is not possible, they must be produced in hermetically sealed systems so that there is no contact between substance and worker.

If this fails to protect workers other measures must be adopted: from the calculation of maximum and minimum concentrations of substances at the place of work and in certain bodily organs to regular medical tests for workers.

A large number of chemical companies will now make increased efforts to reduce the dangers of these 33 carcinogenous substances. The programme says this means, among other things, that they will have to pay more attention than before to the belated affects of dangerous substances.

According to findings by trade supervisory bodies, employees' liability insurances and the World Health Organisation, cancer caused at work can be latent for periods from five to 50 years. The development from the early to the noticeable, and then usually fatal, stages can last many years. Cases of cancer in the chemical industry today could quite easily have been caused by conditions of production in the 1940s and 1950s.

BG Chemie has concluded from this that examinations must be held over decades and not just while the worker is working, perhaps for only short periods in the industry. Only regular medical controls — "under strict observation of the laws against the abuse of computerised data" — can reduce acute dangers and detect hitherto unsuspected dangers, says a BG Chemie spokesman.

The body is still shocked by the fact that venylchloride was for many years considered a harmless substance.

BG Chemie plan which will collect all data on dangerous substances in accordance with EEC guidelines, has set an example for other employees' liability insurances. The trades unions will certainly appreciate this, as they have long criticised conditions in certain jobs, pointing out that various EEC bodies have listed about 750 substances as dangerous.

The fact that the number of serious recurring skin diseases caused at work has been increasing for some years now is a serious warning. *Reinhard Biehl*

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 8 July 1978)

One in four overweight poll shows

One in four West Germans is too fat and has dangerously high blood pressure, according to a joint poll by the Rhineland Palatinate Health Education Centre and the Barmer Ersatzkasse.

These are two conclusions from a voluntary test taken by 175,000 people in the Federal Republic and West Berlin. According to the statistics published in Mainz, two out of three people suffering from high blood pressure are not aware of the fact.

The test programme started three years ago to pinpoint the main health risks. Analysis of the information gathered shows that 27.6 per cent of the men, and 21.1 per cent of women were more than ten per cent abore their ideal weight and could therefore be classified as "seriously overweight." *dpa*

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 5 July 1978)

Doctor slams pressures on children

The ten million schoolchildren in West Germany are under such stress that last year 500 committed suicide by hanging, shooting or poisoning themselves out of fear of school or bad school reports, says a new study.

About one pupil in ten aged between 11 and 19 takes drugs and "the practice of many parents of giving their children tranquillisers at breakfast is unfortunately becoming more widespread," says Professor Friedrich Carl Sitzmann, director of the Homburg University paediatric clinic, in a study entitled "The Impending Consequences of Excessive Pressure at School".

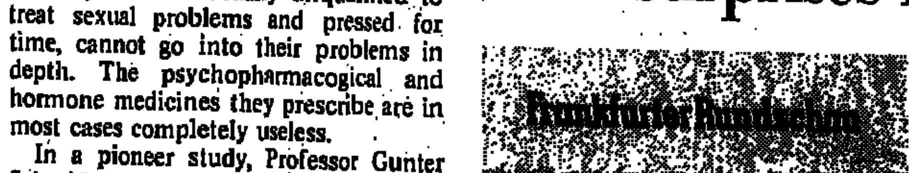
Professor Sitzmann believes "strong orientation towards performance and good marks" is the cause of the often unbearable pressure on pupils. He criticises the importance attached to school report marks, saying it makes children into competitors from a very early age and means "weaker pupils are never given credit for their efforts."

The study also criticises the behaviour of parents. "In the past children were glad when they heard the doctor say they could not go back to school for three days until the fever had passed. Now parents are more willing to take a health risk and send their children back to school sooner rather than have then fall behind in their studies," Professor Sitzmann writes.

He does not confine himself to criticism but suggests improvements. Medically, the main priority is that the number of hours at school should be reduced — to 18 a week in the first and second primary school years, 24 in the third and fourth years and 29 hours for older pupils. *dpa*

(Bremer Nachrichten, 12 July 1978)

Pioneer sex problem study surprises researchers



In Hamburg alone, 1,100 people a week consult their doctors about sexual problems, according to a study by the Hamburg University clinic. The report says they are often disappointed because doctors, who are usually unqualified to treat sexual problems and pressed for time, cannot go into their problems in depth. The psychopharmacogical and hormone medicines they prescribe are in most cases completely useless.

In a pioneer study, Professor Gunter Schmidt and his colleagues in the sexual research department of Hamburg University psychiatric clinic tried to find out how many people are in need of sexual therapy.

They sent 650 questionnaires to urologists, gynaecologists, dermatologists and neurologists practising in Hamburg, as well as to one in five internal medicine specialists and one in ten general practitioners.

The results are remarkable in many ways. Just under 40 per cent of the doctor's completed the questionnaires and their answers revealed that at least 1,100 people a week see doctors about sexual problems. About 1,000 of the patients have functional problems such as erection and ejaculation difficulties, inhibitions when sexually excited or vaginal cramps.

"Even the minimum number of 1,100 far surpassed our expectations. If the questionnaires not returned are also taken into account, it can be assumed that two to three thousand people a week go to the doctor with sexual problems," Professor Schmidt said.

The doctors who replied to the questionnaire concede self-critically that well-meant advice and pills are simply not enough.

Professor Schmidt has no doubt that the figures from his Hamburg analysis would be valid for other cities. These sexual problems, so important in relationships, are often not dealt with because facilities for therapy are almost nonexistent. Women patients at the Hamburg polyclinic had often been treated unsuccessfully by two or three doctors for up to four years.

Within the now completed "Couple therapy for sexual disorders" project financed by the German Research Association, scientists have developed a scheme for patients in Hamburg with sexual problems. A central treatment unit for sexual advice will work closely with psychologists and general practitioners.

Professor Schmidt and his colleagues have produced good results in their work to date. The success rate for patients suffering from vaginal cramps is 90 per cent and 80 per cent of patients with erection difficulties could be helped. The most difficult problem is still inability to have an orgasm among women, frequently connected with a strong revulsion against sexual contact.

During the 1950s, US sexologists Masters and Johnson conducted their now classic investigation of sexual habits in the American mid-West. Professor Schmidt and his colleagues go a step further and take psycho-social and partner-related problems into account. Information alone will not provide the solution, any more than it did in the USA. Most patients are well informed and have read much of the relevant literature. For outpatient treatment couples needed 30 to 40 sessions over four to six months.

After detailed talks with the therapists, they were recommended to go home and do exercises ranging from touching and stroking one another to having sexual intercourse. This training in tenderness is meant to break down taboos and sexual role clichés such as who should take the initiative and to help overcome fears and inhibitions.

Klaus Dallbor

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 15 July 1978)

■ PEOPLE

The psychologist who trades in violence

The man in the hotel foyer is inconspicuous. With his black briefcase and dark tailor-made suit, he could be one of the travelling salesmen or technical advisors often seen here at this time of the morning.

He says he really has no time, 15 minutes at the outside. But the manager image is deceptive. Wolfgang Salewski does not work in imports or exports. He is not a businessman or a tradesman. He massages psyches. Salewski is a psychologist.

Despite his conparature youth (he is only 35), he has managed to make the treatment of such a difficult and elusive subject as the human psyche profitable. Six years ago, Salewski, who comes from Riesenburg in West Prussia and grew up on a farm in South Baden, founded the Institute for Conflict Research and Crisis Counselling in Munich.

The institute seemed unlikely to be troubled by crises. Who would dispute that there is always a demand for someone to settle conflicts and solve crises?

What makes Salewski different from his fellow psychologists who explore the abysses of the human soul without ever reaching firm ground is that he is not looking for answers to deep riddles. He explains his philosophy by saying that he is only interested in what leads to practical action. He is utterly convincing, one of those fortunate people with an instinct for reacting to what is in the air. And his special field is violence.

Salewski has now written a book called *Die neue Gewalt* (The New Violence) or, to be more precise, the book was written in racy journalistic style by a young Viennese with Salewski supplying the ideas. The publishers describe Salewski on the dustcover as a psychologist and "adviser to the Bonn government in crisis situation."

Salewski talks about violence and not about aggression so that everyone knows precisely what he means. He does not want to eliminate violence altogether, like sociologists who believe that a society free of violence would be the answer to all our problems.

Violence, Salewski argues, when it manifests itself as energy and dynamism, has positive aspects. He believes violence is only destructive when not connected with positive aims and expressed in pure aggression.

Salewski's preoccupation is to capture this unpredictable aggressiveness and channel it into positive uses. It is this theory which first brought him public attention.

During the 1972 Munich Olympics Salewski had his first chance to put his theories into practice. Police president Schreiber commissioned him to get together a group to talk to and negotiate with the kidnappers.

Salewski likes to point out that he completed an apprenticeship as a locksmith after taking the *Abitur* (university entrance examination) and considers himself a manual worker as well as a psychologist. His thinking is based on the simple insight that as long as you are talking nothing can happen.

Kidnappers, who are also under stress, can react unpredictably if the situation gets out of their control. He therefore advises that efforts should be made to ensure that they remaim calm. This does not mean one should do everything they say — as long as they have the feeling that on the whole things are going their way it is possible to talk to them.

In his book Salewski enumerates, without being obsessed by them, various symptoms of the illness of our times: lack of willingness to talk and listen to one another, the formation of groups and the creation of enemy images, lack of identity, the isolation of children, work which makes us ill, and so on.

Why then does not an entire generation end up as terrorists? "Most of them find a counterweight, someone who listens to them and stabilises them," Salewski says. Even so there are still enough people who give vent to their repressed need for communication by violence in the wish to transform society in a revolutionary way by terrorism, violent hatred, cold blooded murder of people they do not know and all the acts of violence which the newspapers report every day.

Salewski's great moment came last September. Nine hours after the kidnapping of industrialists Hanns Martin Schleyer on 6 September, Salewski was with the special staff of the Bonn CID. The idea was that he should give the kidnappers a sense of security and thereby ensure that they did not kill Schleyer.

After 45 days Salewski met a defeat in Mogadishu. The storming of the Lufthansa jet freed the 85 hostages and gave Chancellor Schmidt a breathing space but it went against Salewski's principle that violence should not be answered with counterviolence.



Psychologist Wolfgang Salewski: defusing violence is his speciality.
(Photo: Süddeutscher Verlag)

In his book Salewski is critical of what happened at Mogadishu. "In future we must not allow the men of violence to dictate the means to us. In enlightened society it ought to be possible to find a new way towards victory over violence. This way must be as non-violent as possible, which means we must not surrender to violence."

Not only in Mogadishu but in many situations in everyday life people try to solve their problems by violence. Salewski can only combat the acute symptoms. He can diagnose the causes of the illness but he cannot, and has no ambition to, remove the causes. "I am only interested in the practical steps that can be taken," he says.

Hans-Anton Papendieck

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 8 July 1978)

Career women: how to spot those heading for the top

The successful West German career woman is 47, neither especially pretty nor especially ugly, single, Protestant, from a solid middle class background and works over 50 hours a week.

This is the profile established by a team of sociologists from Münster university in a study of women in top professions financed by the German Research Association in Bonn. It is entitled Career Women *(Wenn Frauen Karriere machen)* and published by the Campus Verlag, Frankfurt/New York.

According to the findings, the prototype of the successful career woman also lives in the city and earns about DM58,000 a year. She is well educated and more likely to read technical literature than Alice Schwarzer's feminist magazine *Emma*. She is prepared to sacrifice private interests to further her professional career.

The study began in the summer of 1975 when 56 career women from all over the Federal Republic agreed to be interviewed for six hours. Anonymity was guaranteed.

All the women were graduates between 31 and 72, working in professions where women constitute not more than 10 per cent. The proportion of women in high civil service posts or working as architects is about five per cent, among chemists and professors about three per cent.

Women are most under-represented as senior medical officers — only two per cent. The percentage of women judges and lawyers is relatively high: 7.4 per cent. One third of the women interviewed were employees, one third civil servants and the other third were self-employed.

The author of the report, Erika Bock-Rosenthal, 30, wanted to find out how they reached high positions. She and her colleagues came to the following striking conclusions:

- Most of the women interviewed came from the middle class, only a few came from the upper class and none came from working class families. They all came from families where great stress was put on education.
- Career women are either eldest children or the first or only woman in their job. They are in pioneer positions in which great demands are made of them.
- Women working as employees or in the civil service are generally unmarried. Self-employed women, on the other hand, can usually afford to get married and have children, not least because they often work in the same profession as their husbands.
- Women bosses do not play "strong man" roles. They have accepted the dominant concepts of success and competition but behave differently. In everyday professional life their behaviour is feminine, by which the interviewees meant "going into human aspects at work, the personal problems of colleagues, fellow-workers and clients."
- Despite their high qualifications, the women did not find integration into the man's world easy. They did not respond to discrimination with tears and feminine tantrums, as one lawyer put it, but tried to perform better than their male rivals.
- Emancipation is no longer a problem for successful women, yet they are not prepared to work actively at the head of the women's movement for more equality and less discrimination.

The authors were most surprised by this last point. Erika Bock-Rosenthal says: "We assumed that these women would tend towards progressive political positions" (because they were more aware than most of the contrast between their own successful careers and the difficulties of the large majority of women). "Then it became clear to us that these women act according to their professional position and not according to their sex."

Frau Bock-Rosenthal says some women with pseudo-emancipatory attitudes were not pleased with the book. In defence of this country's superwomen she says: "These women have their work cut out getting to the top in a man's world and do not have time to think about the problems of their fellow-women."

Two women in top positions I spoke to confirmed the results of the analysis. Marilene Schleicher, 48, lawyer and ministerial director in the Bonn Family Ministry, says: "I am not one of the women who fights for emanicpation, I believe women should concentrate on emulating men in their professions." Frau Schleicher, who is the daughter of a merchant and has a 12-year-old daughter, says "the will to achieve something was always first in my case." More recently, she has been thinking about the fate of many women, but still says: "I prefer working with men."

Barbara Schott, 38, a lecture in microeconomics at a German training institute for managers, believes she knows why women in top positions contribute so little to the breaking down of traditional hierarchies and prejudices: "It is because of our special position, which we have had to fight so hard to reach." Women who get to top positions are certainly better than men but they are not revolutionary. "They are amazingly efficient within the present structures, but they would not put themselves out for other women."

Ursula Goldmann-Posch

(Münchner Merkur, 8 July 1978)

■ SOCIETY

Study shows plight of one-parent families

Single-parent families currently number roughly 670,000 in West Germany, according to a survey by the Max Planck Society in Munich.

They include 280,000 widowed mothers, 220,000 divorced mothers and 100,000 unmarried mothers. With about 70,000 fathers they are bringing up children under 18 alone.

These figures are based on an intermediate report by a research group commissioned by the Bonn Justice Ministry to study the living conditions of 1,000 single-parent families.

The aim is to supply facts that can be used in drafting family law reform proposals.

Single-parent families are mainly found in cities, where women feel better able to cope with their dual roles as breadwinners and mothers.

The larger the city, the less prejudice, or so divorced and unmarried mothers find, Divorced fathers and widowed mothers tend to live in rural areas and small towns, on the other hand.

Divorced and unmarried mothers have a hard time making ends meet and must accept below-average living conditions.

Divorced fathers and widowed mothers, on the other hand, earn 2.5 and 1.7 per cent more than the statistical average household of mother, father and two children.

One of the main reasons why divorced and unmarried mothers are worse off is that 41 per cent of mothers raising a family on their own are unable to earn their own living.

Unmarried mothers are the exception: only 17 per cent do not go out to work — even fewer than the 18 per cent of divorced fathers who do not work.

The dual role of breadwinner and parent may be a burden but it has one advantage: working mothers get out and about more.

The survey concludes that the situation of single-parent families defies generalisations. Unmarried and divorced mothers are the only category at a clear disadvantage.

They are doubly disadvantaged when the mother does not earn her own living, relying either on welfare or on maintenance and alimony allowances.

Karl Stankiewitz

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 13 July 1978)

Town rallies to help Turk

Yussuf Mentes, 40, was robbed of his life savings — DM46,000 in notes — the day before he was to leave Geilenkirchen, near Aachen, for his native village on the Black Sea coast of Turkey.

In days sympathisers donated nearly DM40,000, so the father of two who has worked in Germany for 14 years should still be able to build a home of his own in Turkey.

Mentes had withdrawn the cash from his bank but it was stolen with his wrist bag from his trolley in a department store while his back was turned.

He had been reluctant to keep the money at home because thieves had broken into his modest lodgings over Christmas.

Geilenkirchen people could imagine how he was feeling. The vicar called on the congregation to set an example. In 12 days DM25,000 was raised.

A further DM12,000 was deposited in Mentes' bank account and several thousand deutschemarks raised in street collections, with collecting boxes in shops, kiosks and restaurants.

The vicar appealed to the thief to return the money. A mother wrote: "My children are sending you their pocket money." A widow who was once robbed herself donated DM10. One donor hoped Yussuf Mentes would not leave Germany with a bad impression of the country.

At a newsagent's one woman even put a DM1,000 note in the piggy bank. "Don't mention my name," she begged, "It's helping that counts."

Alfred Heiden

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 13 July 1978)



MacSchmidt's day

Walter Schmidt, 29, star of the tenth Highland tourney in Neu-Isenburg, Frankfurt, has a mighty heave at the caber, the only event in which he failed to cow the opposition. (Photo: dpa)

Ministry probes youth sects

Between 100,000 and 150,000 young people are hooked on religious sects aimed at the young, says state secretary Hans-Georg Wolters of the Bonn Ministry of Youth and Family Affairs.

Sects have become a drug on which intellectual war must be waged, conventional police methods having failed, he says.

The ministry has commissioned from Tübingen University a report on the activities of sects, their methods and the ways they influence young people.

Youngsters who leave these groups are extremely difficult to rehabilitate, Herr Wolters says.

The government plant to promote youth work aimed at both prevention and cure. (Deutsche Zeitung, 14 July 1978)

Court officers taste their own medicine

Twenty judges and prosecutors from Lower Saxony recently spent three days in gaol alongside prisoners many of them knew from the dock and had sentenced or prosecuted.

This unusual encounter behind bars at Celle, Hanover, Lingen and Wolfenbüttel prisons was part of a further education course of court officials run by the Land government of Lower Saxony.

Brunswick public prosecutor Hans-Peter Bauer, 37, spent his three days in nearby Wolfenbüttel gaol, where he was pleasantly surprised to meet no aggression.

None of the prisoners tried to get their own back on him in any way. The only hostility he encountered was comments such as: "All you people know is your criminal code."

The court officials behind bars did not wear prison clothing but went through the same daily routine as other inmates. "We did the same work, ate the same food and spent our spare time in the same way," Herr Bauer says.

He and the other 19 took every chance of exchanging views with prisoners and staff. "All concerned will surely have derived benefit," the Brunswick prosecuting counsel says.

They spent the night in one-man cells. "But I did not relish the prospect of having to spend any length of time inside." Herr Bauer feels he has learnt lessons to bear in mind in court.

When calling for prison sentences in the courtroom his personal experience of life behind bars will probably induce him to weigh the factors more carefully before deciding on the length of sentence for which to plead. *ASD*

(Münchner Merkur, 15 July 1978)

When punchcards fall in love – it works

Marriages that result from computer dating are three times more successful than those following more or less coincidental meetings, says Kiel demographer Hans Wilhelm Jürgens.

This conclusion stems from a survey undertaken with the Bonn Ministry of Youth and Family Affairs and Health

Four out of ten married couples who met via a computer dating service say their marriages are very happy, whereas only 19 per cent of couples who met in the conventional way make this claim.

Since neither partner suffers any serious social disadvantage any longer if a marriage fails, many couples who meet in the usual way marry without giving the matter much thought, says Jürgens.

Marriages are entered into on a wave of elation, leaving the future to tell whether the couple are compatible. Computer marriages start from an entirely different basis.

"They are planned more carefully," Professor Jürgens says, "Level-headed objective thought is given to the idea before the step is taken. The heart is not allowed to overrule the head."

(Münchner Merkur, 17 July 1978)

Group fights foreigner prejudice

Fifteen thousand German girls a year marry foreigners — and usually find life tougher as a result, says Rosi Wolf-Almanasreh, Frankfurt general secretary of IAF, the Association of German Women Married to Foreign Nationals.

"The darker the colour of our husbands' skins the worse we fare," she says. Neighbours look askance, strangers insult them in public, there are legal difficulties and even trouble in finding jobs and a home.

Discrimination is the rule, the 750-odd IAF members have discovered. "As soon as we go out with our husbands people use the familiar *Du* when addressing us," says Rosi, 37.

Usually the polite *Sie* for the second person singular is a matter of course when addressing strangers. *Du* is only used to children, animals and "social inferiors."

Frau Wolf-Almanasreh is married to a Jordanian economics graduate and has started to study law to be able to fight more effectively for improvements in the legal position.

German women married to foreigners frequently encounter discrimination at work. A female bank clerk was recently demoted to a backroom job because she is married to an Arab and considered unsuitable for serving the public.

They naturally feel the discrimination encountered by their husbands. Take, for instance, the tale of a coloured computer specialist from the United States who was unable to find a suitable job in Germany and decided to retrain as a stockroom manager.

Eventually he was forced to take a job as a stockroom junior because Germans refused to accept a coloured man as their superior.

People automatically seem to feel that marriages between German girls and foreigners, especially coloured men, cannot last.

This prejudice, IAF says, is based on uncertainty, ignorance, sexual preconceptions and the like. As far as statistics go, these marriages are about average in durability, provided the couple stay in Germany.

But figures are not much help. According to a recent opinion poll 85 per cent of people in the Federal Republic are opposed in principle to marriages with foreigners. *rtr*

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 5 July 1978)

■ SPORT

The Vulture swoops on world fencing title



At eight minute past midnight a cry of "Happy birthday, Emil!" went up at Hamburg's Alsterdorf indoor arena, venue of the world fencing championships.

Seconds later West German team coach Emil Beck and his star pupil Alexander Pusch were warmly congratulating each other.

Pusch could hardly have given his coach a more welcome birthday present. He had just clinched, in a thrilling play-off, the men's individual épée world championship title.

It was the fitting conclusion to a championship final chequered with delight and disappointment, jubilation and protest.

Alexander Pusch, a 23-year-old Cologne student with a lean and hungry look that earned him the nickname "Geier" (vulture) in his home town of Tauberbischofsheim, near Würzburg, had deep rings under his eyes.

His cheekbones were particularly prominent and he looked exhausted, as well he might. He is 1.84 metres (6ft 1/2in) tall and weighs only 73kg (160lb).

At the end of the finals, contested by the best six, it looked as though the winner would be either Philippe Roboud, 21, of France or Piotr Jablkowski, 20, of Poland.

The winner of the bout between these two would have been a clear four points ahead of the other five and virtually unassailable.

But they drew five-all, which was rated in accordance with international federation rules as a defeat for both, and scandal ensued.

The Frenchman reckoned to have scored the winning hit and tore off his mask in jubilation, but the Poles lodged a protest, claiming the bout was already over.

Words ricocheted, infuriated French officials raged for a full hour and even Edgar Mercier, general secretary of the international federation, accused the timekeepers of lying.

But the Poles won their appeal and an unforeseen final play-off between Pusch, Roboud, Jacobson and Jablkowski was necessary.

For the first time at this year's world championships a German fencer derived a genuine advantage from the vocal support of a home crowd.

Two thousand spectators chanted "Alex, Alex!" and team coach Emil Beck also lent his voice.

Pusch went on to demonstrate pluck, power and steady nerves. He beat the other three — Jablkowski 5-2, Jacobson of Sweden 5-1 and Riboud 5-3.

He had vowed to avenge his world championship defeat in Buenos Aires and his dream came true. It was his third gold medal, following a 1975 world championship win and Olympic gold at Montreal.

What is more, it was a victory snatched from the jaws of defeat. The loser was Piotr Jablkowski, who would at least have won a silver medal had his team not lodged the protest.

But he went on to lose all three bouts in the play-off and ended in fourth place, out of the running for a medal.

Pusch could hardly believe his luck. "I shall really have to think it all over," he said. Alongside him Philippe Roboud looked disappointed and downcast, but was fair in his comment on the outcome.

"I was unable to concentrate fully on the play-off after having felt for a few moments that I had already clinched the title," he said.

Rumania, the 1977 world championship runners-up, were beaten 9-2 by Italy in the sabre, so the Italians won the team bronze medal. Russia and Hungary are the finalists.

Karl-Bernd Skamper

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 21 July 1978)



The winners: Alexander Pusch (nicknamed the Vulture for his lean and hungry look) with coach Emil Beck after Pusch clinched the men's épée world champioship at the Alsterdorf indoor arena in Hamburg. (Photo: Nordbild)

Fencing master Beck still dominates effortlessly



Fencing is a sport almost automatically associated in Germany with chief coach Emil Beck and his home town of Tauberbischofsheim, near Würzburg.

Beck has his critics, but he has coached his pupils and squads to a formidable array of honours in recent years.

He has made a name for himself and his protégés with world championship titles and Olympic medals in individual and team events, European Cup wins with club teams and any number of national championships honours.

Training methods developed by Emil Beck have long been copied (as yet without similar success) by others. His idea of entrusting even youngsters with responsibility is seen as part of the reason for his success.

Nine out of 20 members of the national team at the Hamburg world championships were members of his Tauberbischofsheim club. A tenth nominally represents another club but lives and trains alongside the nine.

Fencers from all over the world visit Tauberbischofsheim to see Emil Beck, and even his one-time mentors from the Soviet Union are unstinting in their praise and study his techniques avidly.

Beck has undoubtedly brought a new era for fencing in Germany. Internationally, the former hairdresser and self-taught fencing instructor has also introduced new ideas.

He had no easy time starting in a sport with such time-honoured traditions. Fencing is still felt to be more than the art of handling a sword.

It is claimed to be a noble art combining physical and mental training, a combination of martial art and chivalry.

Fencing is one of the oldest sports, rivalled only be wrestling and boxing. What once was a life-or-death martial art is now only a game.

The oldest known treatise on fencing technique dates back to 1389 and was written by a German instructor, Hans Lichtenauer.

In the 15th century the spear, halbard and dagger were abandoned in favour of lighter weapons and the first fencing clubs were established.

On 10 August 1489 Holy Roman Emperor Frederick III granted a Nuremberg club special privileges, including the right to hold championships.

Master-fencers hve been put through their paces during the Frankfurt Fair annually since 1570. The épée, introduced from Italy, gained in popularity, but in the 17the century France and the foil established supremacy.

France ruled fencing until the late 19the century, when the Italians regained mastery.

Modern fencing in Germany dates back to the founding of clubs in Hanover (1862), Offenbach (1863) and Frankfurt (1865). The first German championships were held in 1896, Italian-style.

Women began to train, in secret and initially limiting themselves to the gymnastics. The first tournament for women in Dresden in 1911 hit the headlines and was soon followed by others.

Women took part in their own Olympic tournaments from 1924, but were restricted in weapons. Attempts in the late 20s to open up épée fencing for women failed, so they made do with the lighter foil.

The épée is a tougher and more serious weapon. It was felt to be unsuitable for women, considered weaker and more delicate than men.

"Many people can play cards, and many do who are none too good at cards," wrote Othmar Melchiar in his fencing manual. "Chess on the other hand has far fewer fans because it is much more difficult and learning the game properly takes more time and effort.

"Much the same is true of fencing in relation to other sports." Years of intensive training, mental agility and unusually swift reactions and powers of concentration are required.

Fencing continues to have an aura of the exclusive, but no longer because it is mainly the preserve of undergraduates. It has remained exclusive partly because it is not really a spectator sport.

The introduction of electronic indicators to register hits in foil and épée contests has made life easier for both spectators and adjudicators, but the finer points can only be appreciated by the connoisseur.

Not for nothing has the sabre come to be neglected in comparison with the other two weapons.

Entrants at Hamburg illustrated the trend. There were 131 men and 112 women competitors in the foil and 145 in the épée but only 85 in the sabre.

Using lights to indicate a hit has yet to work satisfactorily for the sabre. Electronic devices have been demonstrated but not approved by the international federation as reliable.

So spectators at Hamburg's Alsterdorf indoor arena, venue of the 34th world fencing championships, were mainly dedicated fans, probably members of clubs affiliated to the Fencing Association, one of the smallest sports unions with a mere 20,000 members.

Yet world championships in any sport have a fascination all of their own. A special trainload of fans came up from Tauberbischofsheim and were joined by non-aficionados wanting to see Pusch, Behr, Hein and other fencers coached by Emil Beck.

The home team had a reputation to maintain and they had certainly done their preparation. More than 12,000 training bouts in recent months, plus 400 hours of training to Emil Beck's Tauberbischofsheim methods, ensured that they were not going to forfeit world championship honours because they were not ready. *Christiane Moravetz*

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